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- **Presidency of Municipalities Witnessing High Competitiveness Month before Polling Day.**
- **Unofficial Withdrawals during Electoral Campaigns.**
- **Financial Expenditures for Candidates is Lacking Oversight from the Independent Elections Commission (IEC).**

As part of monitoring the overall electoral process, RASSED elections team worked on monitoring electoral campaigns process which started first day of candidates' registration process.

Nearly two weeks after the electoral campaigns began, a number of abuses were carried out by some of supporters of the candidates running for municipal and governorates elections. A number of observations have been recorded since the start of the campaign period, summarized as the following:

1. The electoral activeness is witnessing a gradual increase during the past two weeks.
2. The opening of a group of candidates' campaign offices was monitored. The number of candidates who opened their campaign office reached 9% of the total number of candidates. It was also noted that most of the offices opened are candidates for the post of mayor.
3. It was noted that some of the electoral advertising, especially in Amman, Irbid, and Zarqa, was placed in places that raised the complaints of citizens and cars drivers, especially those that were put on traffic signals or on electricity poles at low altitude or at intersections and roundabouts, knowing that the IEC removed number of infringing advertising banners of candidates, and to promote equal opportunities the IEC should act on all the violating advertisements.
4. Several tribal and regional meetings was observed with the aim of withdrawing some of the candidates to each other. Some areas also witnessed unofficial withdrawals. In other words, it was agreed to withdraw between the candidates without submitting official withdrawal requests to the IEC.



## RASSED Report on Electoral Campaigns of Candidates

5. The electoral activeness candidates running for the post mayor attests a higher competitiveness than the local councils and governorates councils.
6. Social media is witnessing a remarkable increase in electoral campaigns day after day, as most candidates use social media to promote themselves.
7. A series of electoral promotion used by candidates were documented by sending SMS messages through private telecommunication companies.
8. Electoral programs seemed very insignificant compared to the 2016 parliamentary elections as most candidates did not disseminate their programs to their constituents, including the candidates who opened their campaign offices.
9. Most of the candidates promote their electoral campaigns through the media through newspapers, TV channels, and promotion papers, and it was evidently noted of candidates in the capital and the governorate of Irbid.
10. A total of 190 cases of assault were recorded on posters and banners of candidates by supporters of other candidates. RASSED received a series of complaints from candidates about incidents affecting their electoral campaigns.

RASSED calls the IEC and related authorities to consider these observations mentioned in the report, first and foremost to track the financial expenditures of the candidates and compare them with the ceiling amount identified as the thresholds for the electoral campaigns and to take the necessary measures in order to guarantee equal opportunities between candidates, and call the IEC also to take actions to remove violating electoral advertisements and any violating promotional means that does not conform to the provisions of the executive regulations of electoral campaigns.