



## Mapping out Academic and Professional Backgrounds and Influence Bases for Jordan's 2016 Parliamentary Elections

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**24.6% of Candidates Hold Post-Graduate Degrees**

**15.2% of Candidates Rely on Economic Influence**

**4.1% of Candidates Rely on Religious Influence**

**5.8% of Candidates Did Not Pass High School**

RASSED's team conducted an extensive analysis of candidate backgrounds and sources of influence during the campaign period ahead of Jordan's 2016 parliamentary elections. A descriptive quantitative methodological framework was adopted for the purposes of this analysis, where a stratified random sample of 1,100 candidates was drawn. Data collected was explicitly self-declared, either through directly contacting the candidates or their displayed resumes.

The analysis outcomes on the basis of list formation revealed that only 6.4% of running lists were formed solely based on partisan affiliations. Meanwhile, 43.5% of lists were formed solely based on tribal alliances. 11% of lists were formed on mixed tribal/partisan bases, while 39.1% of lists were formed on independent (non-tribal, non-partisan) bases.

As for the main sources of societal influence each list relies on, the results revealed that 15.2% of candidates rely on their economic influence, while 45.5% rely on social leadership (tribal leaders and dignitaries). 4.1% of candidates are found to be religious leaders, while 3.2% are media figures. Candidates relying on partisan influence represents 18% of all candidates.

The analysis also investigated candidates' professional backgrounds (during and before candidacy). 13% of all candidates were found to be military retirees, while 12.3% were found to be former governmental employees, 24.4% businesspersons, while lawyers and academics were 9.6% of candidates each. Engineers comprise 6.9% of candidates and doctors comprise 5.2%.

As for the academic achievements of candidates, the analysis revealed that 5.8% of candidates did not pass high school, compared to 13.1% who did pass but did not hold any further degrees. 8% of candidates were found to hold diplomas and 48.5% hold bachelor's degrees. A total of 24% of candidates hold post-graduate degrees, broken down into 8.7% who hold master's degrees and 15.9% who hold doctoral degrees.

The analysis also revealed that 73.7% of candidates are running for elections for the first time, with the remainder running for the second time or more.

