

RASED's Report On Verifying the Accuracy Of the Preliminary Voter's Lists

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Chapter One

Checking Preliminary Voters lists



Context

The Independent Commission for Elections (IEC) announced the first preliminary voters lists on 24 / 06 / 2016 under the provisions of article (4) of the Elections Law. 4,139,612 voter have been listed, 1,952,711 of them male, 2,186,901 female. It is worth mentioning that the Interpretation of Laws Bureau confirmed that those aged 17 and over can vote. Table (1) shows the number of voters in all districts and their distribution according to gender, as released by civil and citizenship department.

Amman Governorate			
Electoral District	Male	Female	Total
First	142870	148168	291038
Second	199896	201867	401763
Third	115452	126149	241601
Fourth	122899	130979	253878
Fifth	179101	198481	377582
Total	760218	805644	1565862

Balqa Governorate			
Electoral District	Male	Female	Total
Balqa	140155	158591	298746
Total	140155	158591	298746

Zarqa Governorate			
Electoral District	Male	Female	Total
First	221801	230250	452051
Second	62833	68918	131751
Total	284634	299168	583802

Madaba Governorate			
Electoral District	Male	Female	Total
Madaba	49383	57611	106994
Total	49383	57611	106994

Badia Districts			
Electoral District	Male	Female	Total
Northern Badia	32145	41862	74007
Central Badia	22378	28654	51032
Southern Badia	24429	29403	53832
Total	78952	99929	178871

Irbid Governorate			
Electoral District	Male	Female	Total
First	156205	170390	326595
Second	66777	78495	145272
Third	52367	61142	113509
Fourth	71371	92734	164105
Total	346720	402761	749481

Mafraq Governorate			
Electoral District	Male	Female	Total
Mafraq	45838	60211	106049
Total	45838	60211	106049

Jerash Governorate			
Electoral District	Male	Female	Total
Jerash	48273	59920	108193
Total	48273	59920	108193

Ajloun Governorate			
Electoral District	Male	Female	Total
Ajloun	44103	56859	100962
Total	44103	56859	100962

Karak Governorate			
Electoral District	Male	Female	Total
Karak	75172	92522	167694
Total	75172	92522	167694

Tafilah Governorate			
Electoral District	Male	Female	Total
Tafilah	24154	31070	55224
Total	24154	31070	55224

Ma'an Governorate			
Electoral District	Male	Female	Total
Ma'an	27126	32170	59296
Total	27126	32170	59296

Aqaba Governorate			
Electoral District	Male	Female	Total
Aqaba	27983	30455	58438
Total	27983	30455	58438

Total	1952711	2186901	4139612
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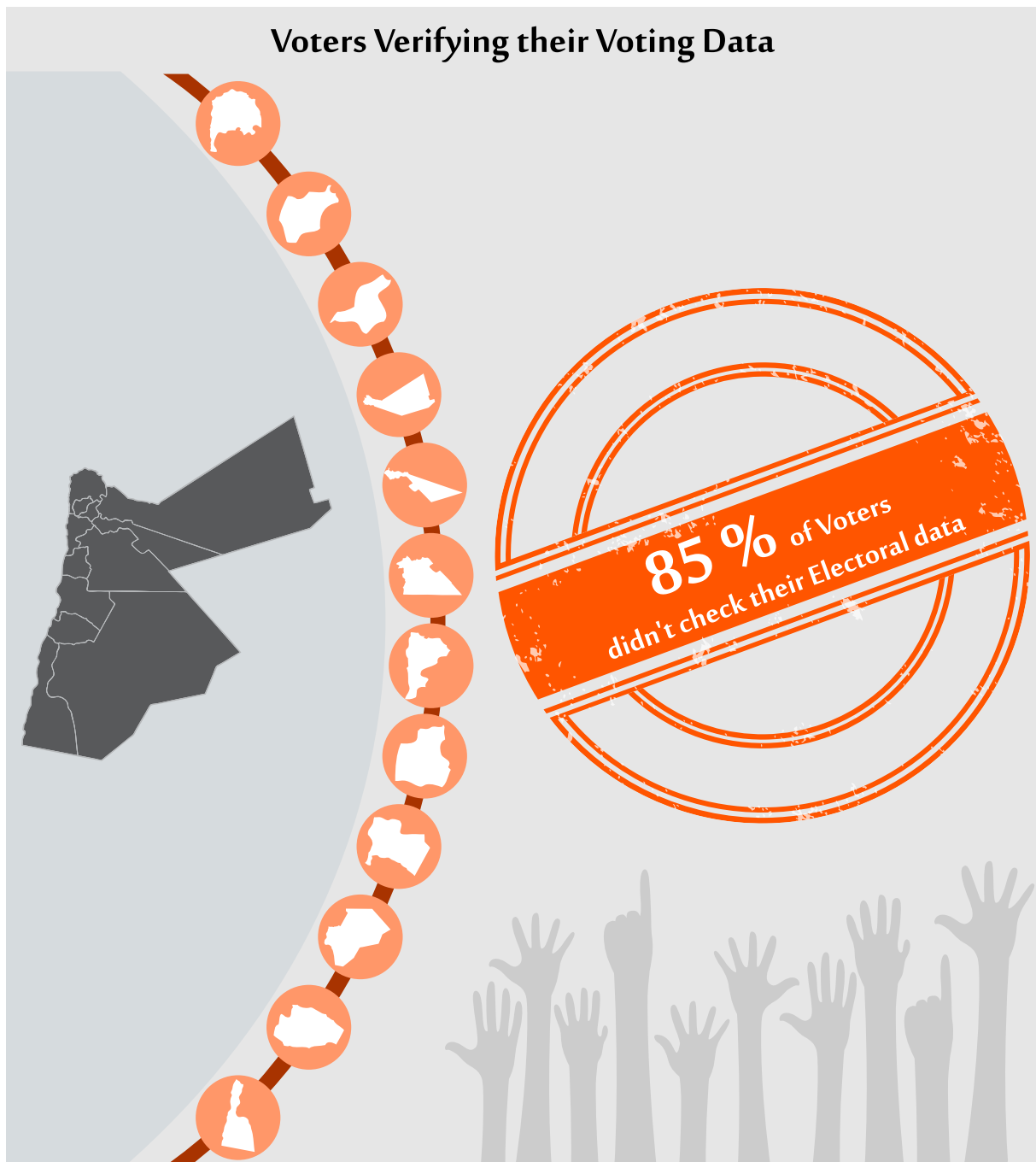
Methodological framework

The checking of Preliminary Voters lists was done by using quantitative research methodologies, asking respondents direct question and comparing their answers with all that was mentioned in the preliminary voters lists. Additionally, respondents answers were confirmed using Triangulation methodologies. The study was also based on Voter-to-List checking methodologies, and a stratified random sample was chosen (approximately 1800 people), with an accuracy of 95% trust and a margin of error of $\pm 3\%$. A verification form was designed, and 75 researchers were trained in how to deal with voters by phone. They then called voters and asked them if they had read their voting information in the preliminary voters lists. If they had not, RASED's researchers asked them to check it and then complete the form questions.

Important Outcomes

Knowing the electoral data

The results of Study show that 15% of responders had checked their voting information before receiving a phone call from RASED. Most had checked their information by free SMS, and some used the IEC website but said it was difficult to check in this way because of the verification code. This is further explained in the infographic.



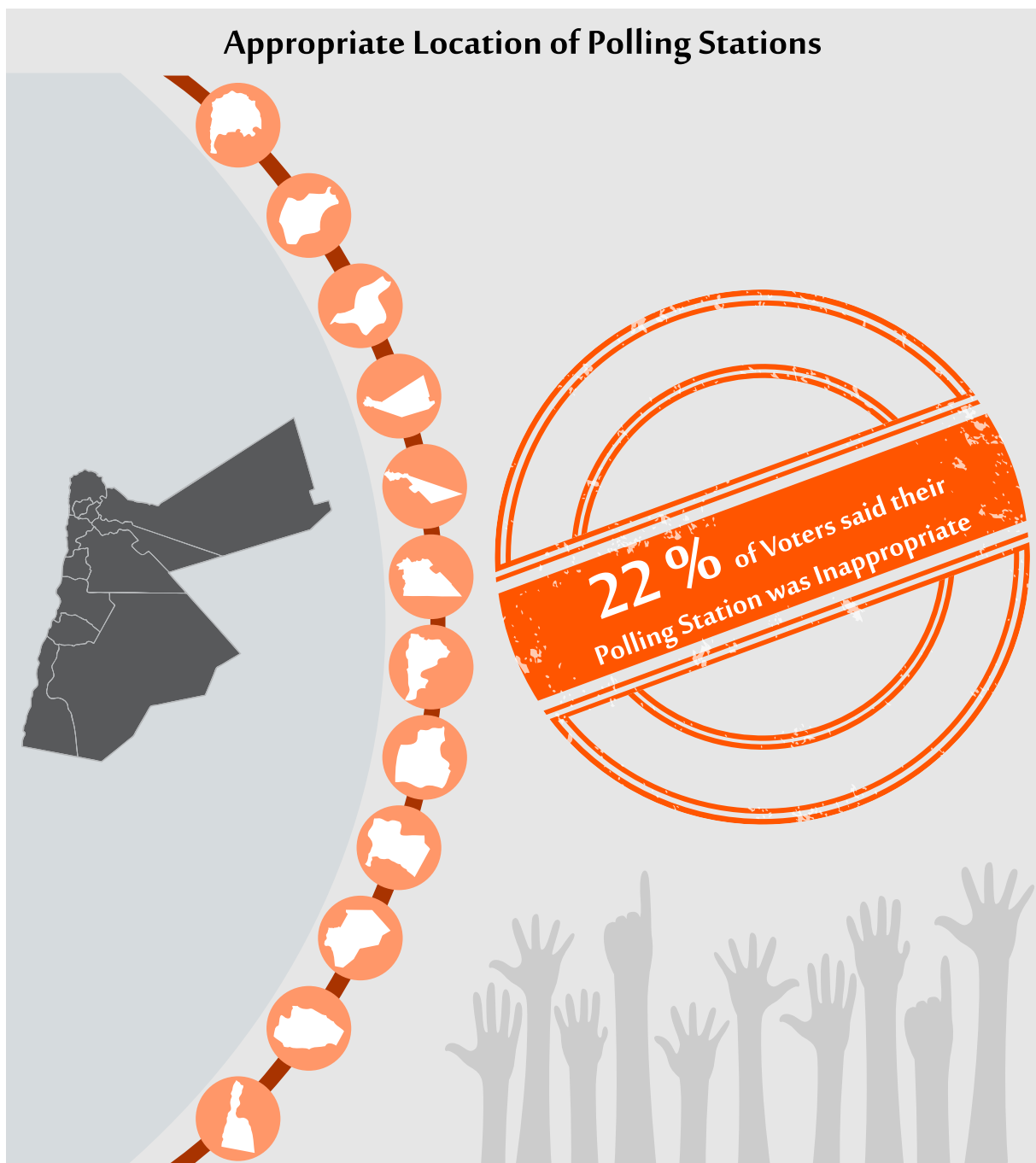
Listing Voters and Electoral districts accuracy

4.5% of responders who had the right to vote indicated that their names were not listed in the preliminary voters lists. It is important to note that many of these people were expatriates and had not fixed their information. Regarding the electoral districts accuracy; the percentage of accuracy reached 97% for responders. This is further explained in the infographic.



Allocation of polling stations

The main problem identified was with polling stations, with 22% of responders (representative of almost 900 thousand voters) pointed out that their polling stations were inappropriate to their residency, even though their electoral districts were correct. 18% (representative of nearly 750 thousand voter) said they would not vote in the upcoming elections because of this problem. This is further explained in the infographic.



Voters opinions on participating in the election

Responders were asked if they would vote in the upcoming elections. 31.5% stated that they would participate in the elections, 29% were undecided. Finally, 39.5% stated that they would not participate. The following infographic shows this information.



Chapter Two

Monitoring displaying the preliminary voters lists and the objections on it



Context

According to the provisions of Article (4) of the Election Law, ten days must be allocated for the display of preliminary voter lists in order for voters to verify the lists and submit objections on place of residence or other errors. This should begin the day after the IEC's declaration of the preliminary voter lists, on 25 / 06 / 2016. There are two forms of objection to voter lists; the first is objection to one's own data, the second is objection to data of someone else that is inaccurately portrayed on the lists. The Civil Status and Passports department is the department for submitting self-objections, while objections to the data of others can only be submitted to one Polling Committee in each governorate. The IEC indicated that they received 13,768 self-objections, of which 5.6% were accepted.

The first stage of the objections process is for the objections to be submitted to the Department of Civil Status and the IEC. Following this, preliminary decisions made by the IEC can be appealed at the Court of First Instance. Finally, the Court will decide whether or not to make the corrections to the voter lists before the publication of the final list. The IEC is expected to publish the final voter lists on 15 / 08 / 2016.

Methodological Framework

RASSED's team depended on field tracking methodologies to monitor the process of the publication of preliminary voter lists and objections to it. 75 local observers trained in data collection worked on this process, basing their work on international standards and comparative best practices as well as local demands for electoral reform.

Observers also implemented a series of research visits during the voter lists display stage, between 24/06/2016 and 08/07/2016. RASSED visited all offices in which preliminary voter lists and objections are displayed.

Field Monitoring Results

First: Civil servants employed by the Armed Forces

The new Election Law allows civil servants employed by the Armed Forces to vote in the next parliamentary election. As such, the Department of Civil Status is required to include their names on the preliminary voter lists. However, the results of RASSED's field monitoring show

that many of these civil servants did not have their names included on the preliminary voter lists (indicated in the number of objections made across the country). As for those who were included on the preliminary lists, the problem remains that these civil servants do not possess a personal ID card as these are taken away once they are registered with the armed forces. A personal ID card is needed to vote..

Second: Informing voters of accepting or rejecting Objections

The submitted objections should be accepted or rejected by the IEC within 14 days, according to Article (4 h) of the Elections Law, based on Article 10 of the Voter Lists Operational Instructions. However, most citizens were unaware of the fact that objections could be rejected at all. Additionally, citizens simply receive a notice of submission of objection, they are not informed of whether their objection has been accepted or denied. This, coupled with lack of awareness that denial is a possibility, this deprived them of their option to appeal to the Court of First Instance.

Third: Human Resources efficiency on facilitating objections

Data collected by Field Observers indicate that employees of the Department of Civil Status showed a high degree efficiency in dealing with citizens who submitted objections, which was evident in voters' feedback on the process in the objections centers. Despite the presence of some former MPs in the objection centers, the staff at the center dealt with the former MPs as they did with all citizens, without facilitating MP requests or providing them with preferential treatment. RASSED complimented the staff on their commitment to their work during the Eid Al-Fitr holidays.

Fourth: Badia district's voter lists

Field observers documented a series of objections referring to an error made in listing a group of names from the 3 Badia's districts. These names were misplaced or listed in districts other than their place of residence (in districts outside the Badia districts). It was also found that the voter lists in Aqaba, Ma'an, Al-Karak, Tafleeh, Mafraq and Irbid governorates included the names of persons who could not vote because they come from Badia districts. RASSED communicated this error to the IEC, who promised to correct it.

Chapter Three

Studying the perspectives of the members of the 17th House Of Representative on the upcoming elections



Context

After the announcement of the dissolution of the 17th House of representatives on the 29th of May 2016, many MPs revealed their intention to run for office in the 18th Parliament, especially as the 2016 parliamentary elections will be carried out under a new law adopting an open proportional list system, as opposed to the past one vote system.

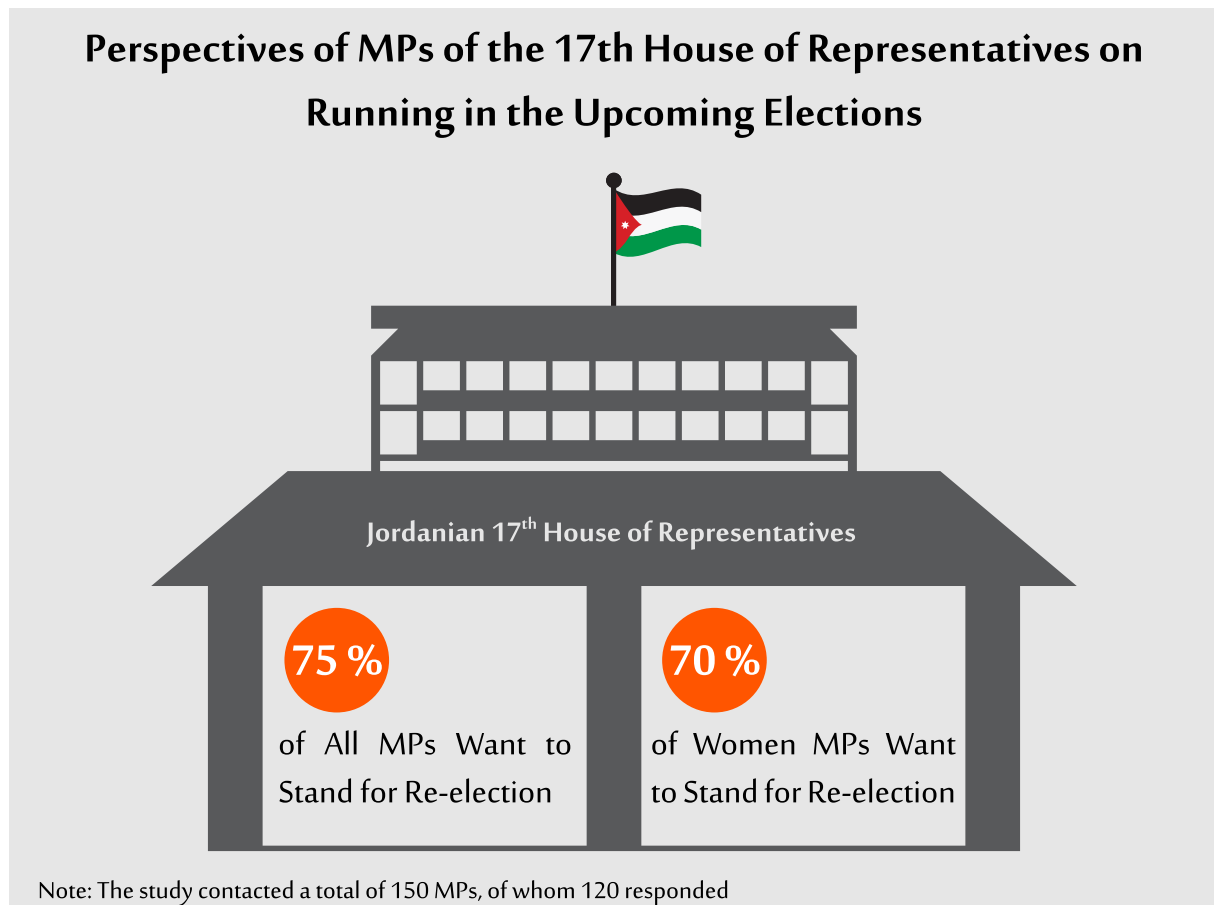
The methodological framework

A quantitative research method was adopted in this process, directing questions to various deputies in the 17th Parliament. A set of questions was compiled to assess the various perspectives of the MPs about the upcoming elections. Of 150 MPs contacted, 120 responded to the study.

Results:

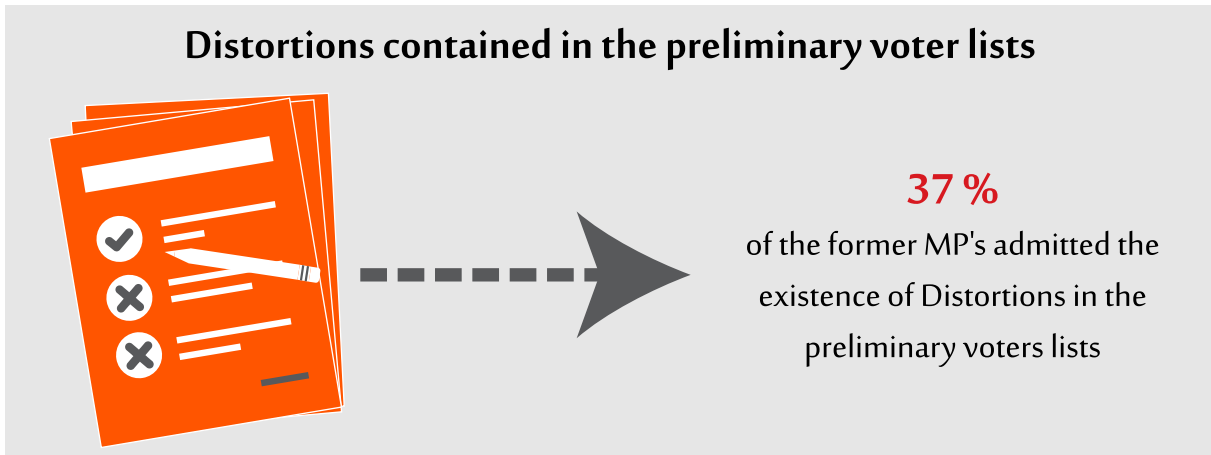
First: Candidature in the upcoming elections

Results of the study showed that 75% of the total number of MPs reached intend to run in the upcoming elections. 70% of women MPs expressed a desire to run for the 18th Parliament, as the following graph shows:

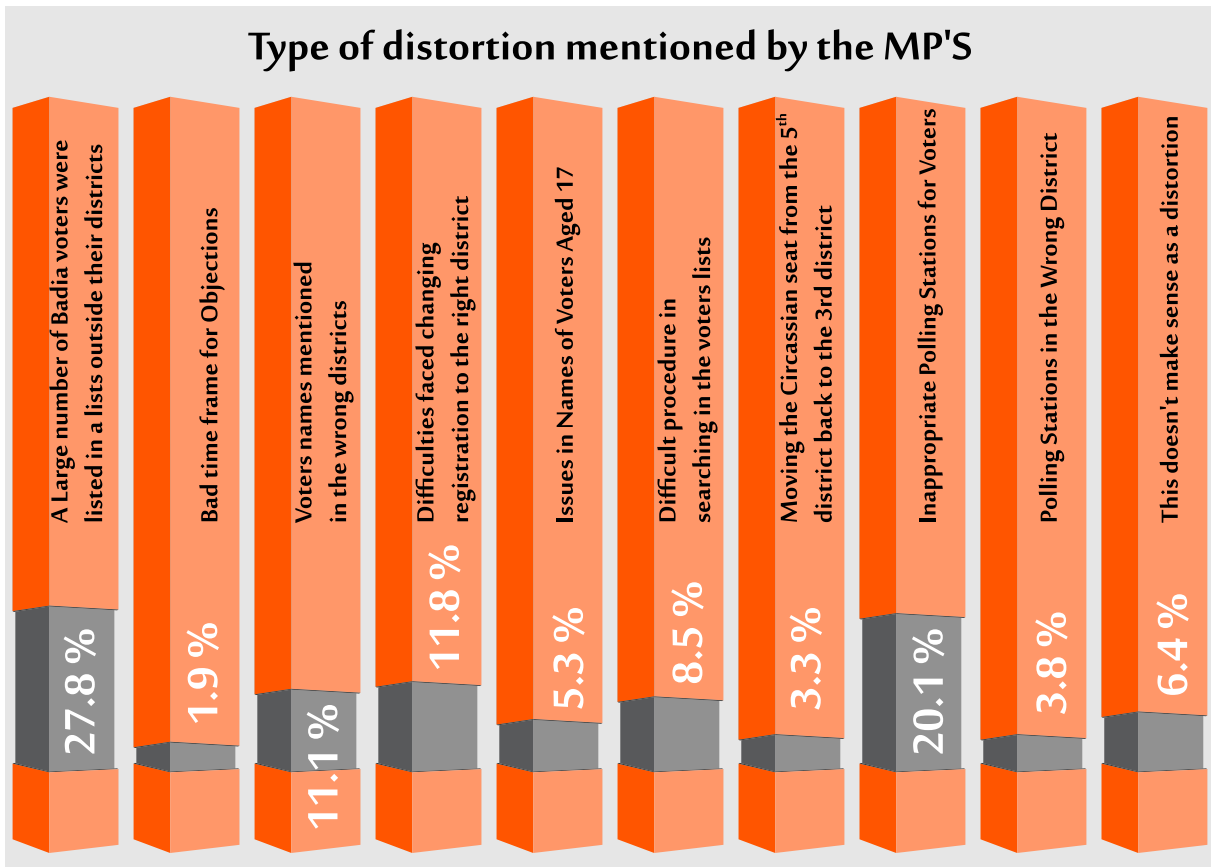


Second: Distortions contained in the primary voter lists

Deputies were asked about the existence of any problems with the IEC's published preliminary voter lists. 37% of MPs announced the existence of problems in the lists, as the following graph shows:



Furthermore, respondents were asked about the types of the distortions in the preliminary voter lists. The graph below shows the distribution of responses:

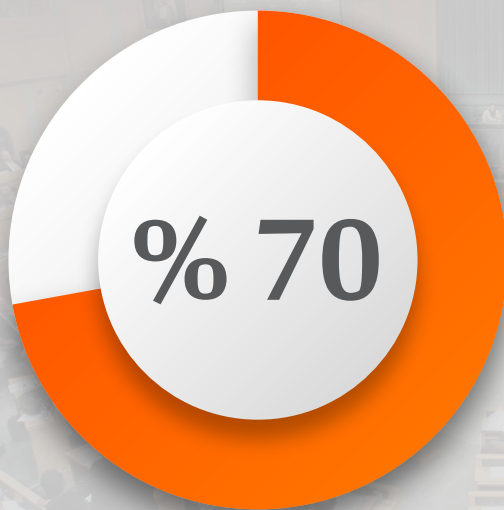


Third: Recommendations from former MPs about the development of the electoral process

In order to include former deputies in the process of electoral development in Jordan, RASED asked the MPs for recommendations to improve the electoral process. 30% of the respondents did not make any recommendations, while 70% did. The recommendations made are included below:

- 1- Find a mechanism to announce results on the same day.
- 2- Explain the law more clearly to citizens before polling day.
- 3- The reduction of political money in vote buying.
- 4- Programmatic focus on the composition of the lists.
- 5- Increase the number of polling stations.
- 6- Glass ballot boxes to increase transparency.
- 7- Extend the transport and objections period.
- 8- Ensuring that the IEC commits to international standards for elections.

Recommendations on Developing the Electoral Process made by MPs from the 17th House of Representatives



Of the
representatives
surveyed responded

Note: The study contacted a total of 150 MPs, of whom 120 responded

Chapter Four

Report Recommendations



First: Election Transparency

In order to ensure the ability of citizens and observers to conduct comparative statistical audits of the content of voter lists, the Independent Election Commission (IEC) must publish the voter lists in open and viable electronic formats. This needs to be a “searchable” document, unlike the published preliminary voter lists whose electronic formats do not allow searching.

The IEC needs to find a notification mechanism to notify citizens of its resolutions and decisions on the acceptance or rejection to any objections made about the preliminary voter lists. This notification needs to occur within a reasonable timeframe, allowing voters to prepare the necessary documents to challenge decisions in court.

The IEC needs to clarify why it is that some voters were allocated to polling stations at great distance from their area of residence. Most of the complaints are based on the notion that the voter’s place of residence registered at the Department of Civil Status is not the basis on which the allocation of polling stations was made. This was noted by RASSED when comparing places of residence with the polling station allocated within the district.

Second: Electoral justice

The IEC should allow for more time to adjust polling stations for voters in districts. This requires the extension of the time-period in which voters can file complaints about the location of their polling stations. This period should end with the finalization of appeals before the nomination period begins. Proposal:

RASSED propose that the IEC establish system of electronic objections as the current system of complaints requires that voters travel to the Department of Civil Status. Voters could do this by entering their national number, date of birth and mobile telephone number. The voter will then receive a verification number by a text message. When the voter enters the verification number into the electronic modification box (on a computer or mobile device), the voter chooses one of the polling stations within their district.

The IEC shall publish a detailed list of polling stations eligible to receive voters with physical disabilities on Election Day.

Third: the integrity of the election

The IEC should review the preliminary voter lists and then conduct the necessary investigations to show whether objections are the result of erroneous entries intend to manipulate the electoral process or to deprive voters of their right to vote. If this is the case, such crimes are to later be prosecuted according to the provisions contained in the Electoral Law.

The IEC should ensure technical guarantees to prevent the manipulation of voter lists during the time-frame between the expiration of the preliminary voter lists objections to the displaying of the final voter lists.

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