

## Survey of Voting Intentions in Arab Society – Key Findings

The survey is a joint initiative of Sikkuy: The Association for the Advancement of Civil Equality, the Abraham Initiatives, and the aChord Center at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Data collection was undertaken by the Akfar polling company, headed by Dr. Hisham Jubran.

The survey included 1,055 Arab citizens of Israel eligible to vote in the election. The sample was representative in terms of sex; of all age groups from 18 up; of four geographical areas: the Galilee, the “Triangle,” the Negev, and the mixed cities; and of religion – Muslims, Christians and Druze.

The telephone survey was conducted between July 12-19, 2019 by dialing cell phone numbers and was conducted in Arabic.

### Key Findings

#### **Will you vote in the September 2019 election?**

Approx. 42% of respondents intend to vote, 26% do not intend to vote, and 32% are undecided.

#### **Distribution of voting intentions in September 2019 relative to voting/abstention in April 2019:**

- 57% of respondents will repeat their voting trends from the April 2019 election: 23% of respondents who did not vote in April state they will again not vote in September, while 34% who voted in April state they plan to do so again in September.
- Approximately one-third of respondents (32%) are still undecided about whether or not to vote. 19% of respondents did not vote in April 2019 and remain undecided about voting in the next election, while and 13% did vote in the previous election and are undecided about the next election.
- In addition, 8% of respondents stated that they did not vote in April but will do so in September. Only 3% stated that they voted in April but will not do so in September.

#### **Why didn't I vote? – Reasons for non-participation in April 2019**

- The most prominent reason for not voting is the sense of a lack of influence (“my vote is pointless”) – 34.2% of respondents who did not vote in April 2019 mentioned this as the reason for their decision.

- Only 13.8% of those who didn't vote in April 2019 did so for ideological reasons, accounting for just 7% of the entire Arab electorate.
- Predictably, the collapse of the Joint List also influenced those who decided not to vote: 9.1% of those who did not vote in April mentioned this as the reason for their decision.

### **Factors influencing the intention to vote or not to vote in the repeat election in September 2019**

#### The entire sample:

1. The most significant factor that would increase the respondents' motivation to vote would be a declaration by the center-left parties that issues of importance for the Arab citizenry (such as violence and poverty) are part of their platform. Such a declaration would increase the motivation of 30.7% of respondents to vote.
2. The second-most significant factor that would motivate respondents to vote would be the formation of a Joint List including all Arab parties. This would increase the motivation of 25.4% of respondents to vote.
3. Additional significant factors encouraging participation:
  - A declaration by the center-left parties that equality is an important issue (25%)
  - A declaration by the center-left parties that they intend to invite the Arab parties to join the coalition (19.4%)

#### Among respondents who stated that they do not intend to vote in the upcoming election:

1. A declaration by the center-left parties that issues of importance for the Arab citizenry (such as violence and poverty) are part of their platform would increase the motivation to vote among 19.9% of those who said they do not intend to vote.
2. A declaration by the center-left parties that equality is an important issue to them would increase the motivation to vote among 11.8% of those who said they do not intend to vote.
3. Representation in the parties' members of people from their immediate vicinity (e.g. the town where they live) would increase the motivation to vote among 11.6% of those who said they do not intend to vote.

Among respondents who are undecided regarding participation in the upcoming election:

1. A commitment by the center-left parties to tackle issues of importance to the Arab citizenry would increase the motivation to vote among 30.1% of undecided respondents.
2. The establishment of a Joint List including all Arab parties would increase the motivation to vote among 27.9% of undecided respondents.
3. Additional significant factors encouraging participation among undecided respondents:
  - A declaration by the center-left parties that they intend to invite the Arab parties to join the coalition (24.2%)
  - A declaration by the center-left parties that equality is an important issue to them (23.6%)
  - A joint declaration by center-left and Arab parties of a possible Jewish-Arab coalition (22.7%)

Among respondents who plan to vote in the upcoming election:

1. A declaration by the center-left parties that issues of importance to the Arab citizenry (such as violence and poverty) are part of their platform would increase the motivation to vote among 35.2% of those who plan to vote.
2. The establishment of a Joint List would increase the motivation to vote among 32.9% of those who plan to vote.
3. Additional factors encouraging participation among those who plan to vote:
  - A declaration by the center-left parties that equality is an important issue to them (30.6%)
  - A declaration by the center-left parties that they intend to invite the Arab parties to join the coalition (25.4%)

**What are the most urgent issues for Arab citizens?**

The survey examined which issues are the most important to Arab society and found that the five top issues (in order of importance) are: Violence and crime in Arab society; the nation-state law; education; housing, land, and house demolitions; and poverty and unemployment.