



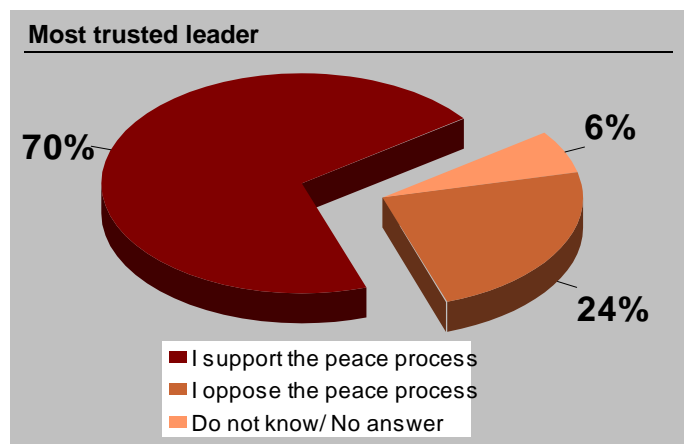
PLC 2006 Elections Voting Behavior & Results Projections

Methodology

During the period 20-22 January, 2006, Near East Consulting (NEC) conducted a phone survey of over 1200 Palestinians over the age of 18 in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem of which 837 were successfully completed. This is the first national political survey to be conducted over the phone in Palestine. The survey covered a number of issues pertaining to the upcoming PLC elections such as factional support and voting behavior as well as support for the peace process. The results were weighted according to the population densities of the Palestinian governorates. It is worth noting that 60% of the households in the Palestinian territories have telephone connectivity. Previous surveys conducted by the researchers at NEC do not show much difference in the political attitudes between households who own telephone lines and those who do not.

Support for the Peace Process

- As indicated in the adjacent figure, 70% of the respondents support reaching a peace agreement with Israel.
- 84% of those who said they will vote for the Fateh bloc in the elections support the peace process, while 54% of those voting for the Hamas bloc support the peace process.



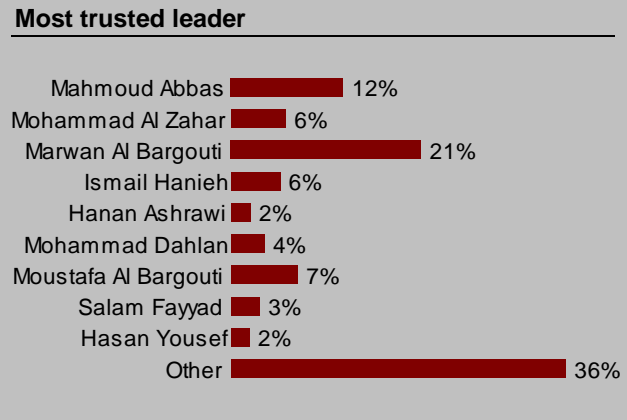
Factional and Leadership Trust

- When asked which faction they trusted most, 56% of those surveyed said Fateh while 35% said Hamas.
- The table below details the trust for Hamas and Fateh by region:

	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Jerusalem
Fateh	49%	67%	50%
Hamas	37%	28%	50%

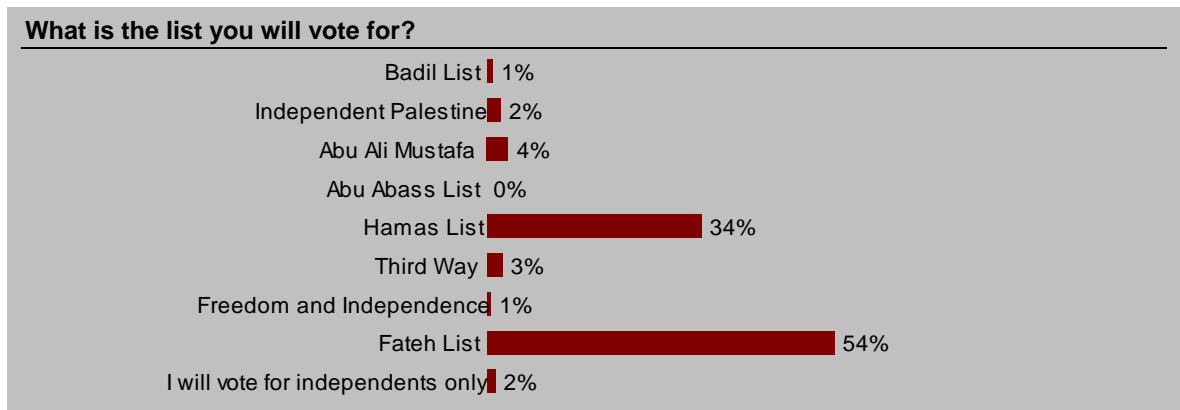


- When asked about the political leader they trust most, 18% of the respondents said they trusted no one or refused to answer. Those who did respond to the question mentioned a total of 50 Palestinian leaders. The adjacent figure shows those personalities who were supported by more than 1% of the respondents. The results show Marwan Al Bargouti as the most popular leader at 21% with a 9% lead over Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

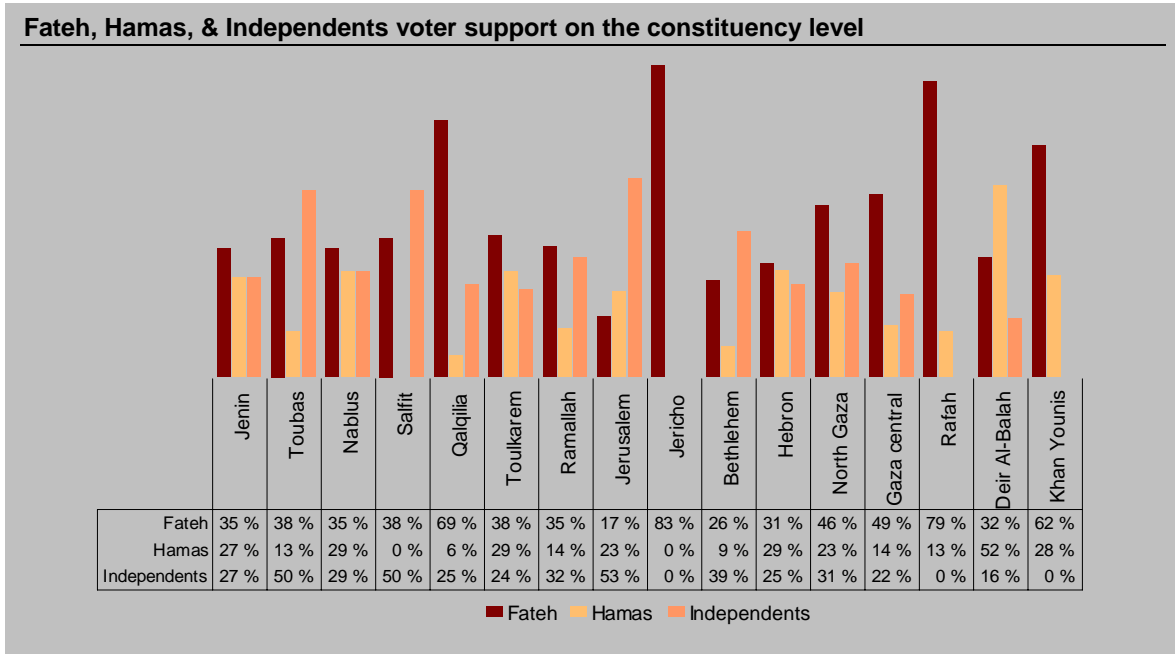


Voter Turnout & Voting Behavior

- 86% of the respondents said they plan on voting in the upcoming PLC elections.
- As indicated in the figure below, 54% of the respondents said they will vote for the Fateh list while 34% said they will vote for the Hamas list.



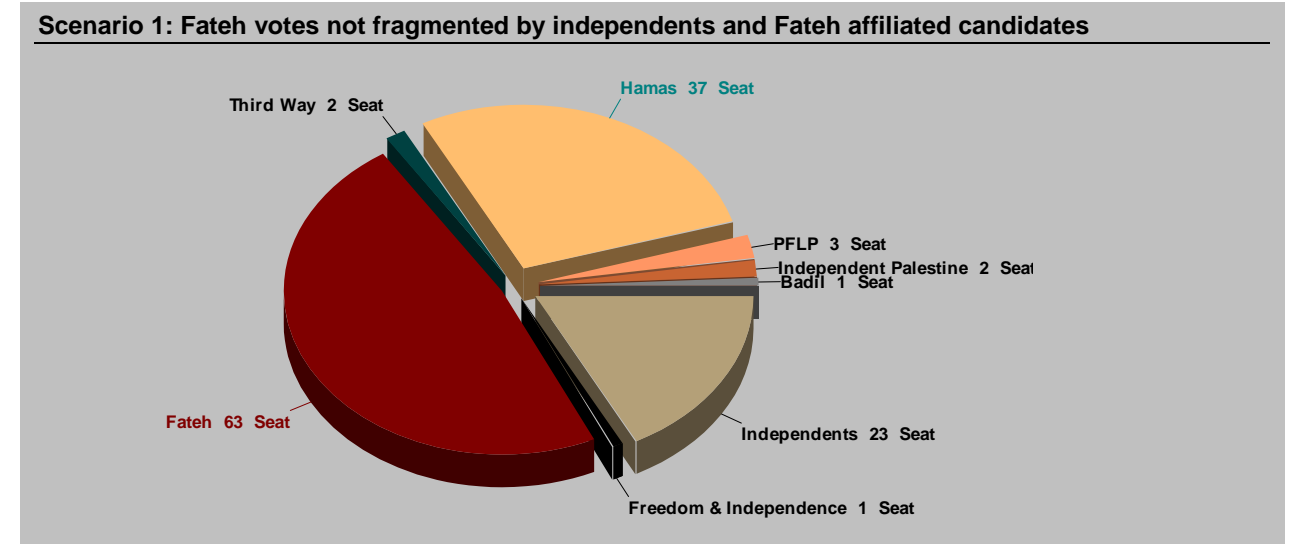
- 22% of the respondents said that their reason for voting for a particular list is their dissatisfaction with the work of the other lists or factions. Of those, 55% said they will vote for Hamas and 32% for Fateh.
- On the constituency level the results of the survey show a lead for Fateh in most of the governorates. However, the actual outcome of the election process could follow several scenarios which are discussed in the next section. The figure below shows the level of support for Fateh, Hamas, and Independents on the constituency level.



NEC Projections for Election Results

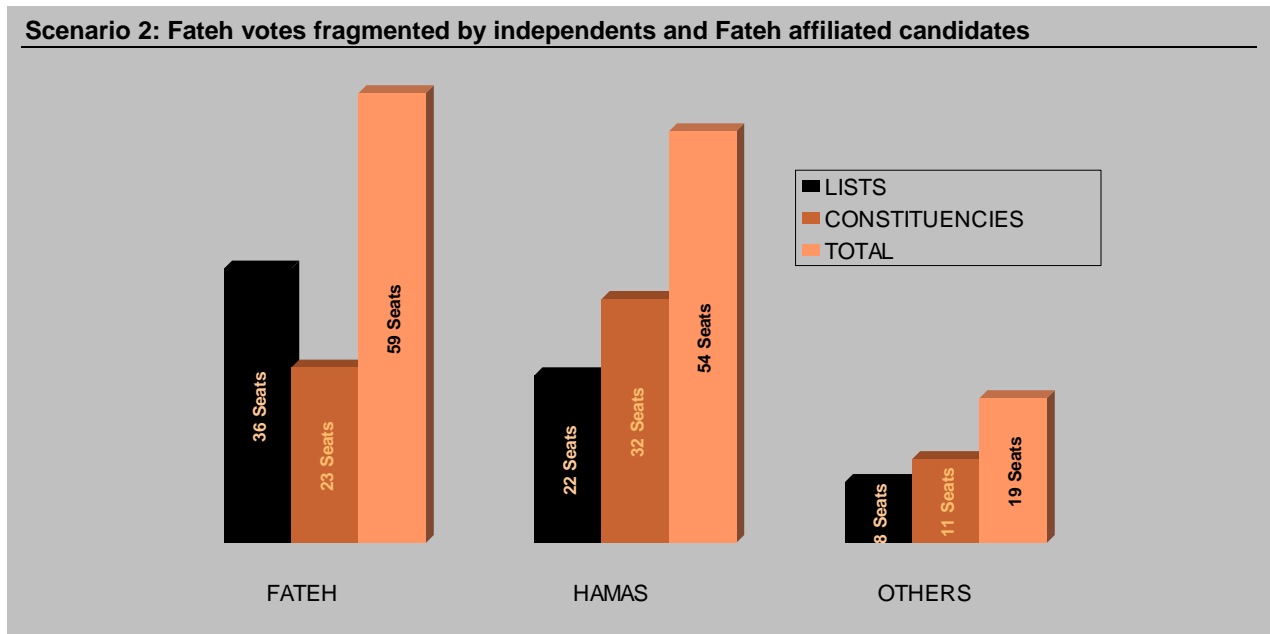
Although Fateh seems to have dominance on the national level (the lists), its chances of winning seats at the constituency level do not appear to be as strong. This is not because of the low number of votes Fateh will gain overall, but rather because of possible fragmentation of the Fateh votes due to the large number of Independent and Fateh affiliated candidates who are running in all the districts.

Thus, as indicated below (Scenario 1), Fateh is projected to gain a majority of the votes **if people who vote for Fateh on the national level choose only official Fateh candidates** at the constituency level.





However, it seems likely that the **Fateh vote will be fragmented due to the large number of independent Fateh affiliated candidates running**. This is likely to have a positive impact on Hamas candidates since they have no unofficial candidates running in any of the sixteen districts (Scenario 2). The number of seats ultimately won by Fateh should therefore vary depending on whether Fateh supporters vote for official Fateh candidates or for **unofficial** candidates affiliated with Fateh. The higher number of votes that go to official Fateh candidates, the higher is the number of seats for Fateh, and visa versa.





Contact Information

Near East Consulting (NEC) is a Palestinian consulting firm based in Ramallah, Palestine. NEC is composed of a team of researchers who are leaders in survey research and data analysis. Their experience covers a wide array of consultancies ranging from public opinion polling, media research, democracy and democratization, food security, health and education, women and children, socio-economic development, poverty and the labor market, peace and conflict resolution, arms control and disarmament, electoral processes, Palestinian refugees, demography, legal and judicial systems and impact of aid and assistance.

The team has consulted for various local and international bodies, including UNDP, WFP, UNRWA, UNICEF, ILO, the World Bank, WHO, OXFAM, Royal Institute for International Affairs, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, JMCC, Arab Thought Forum, Panorama, the Nablus Center and the Center for Development Studies at Birzeit University.

NEC provides qualitative and quantitative research by employing theoretical and applied tools that focus on matters related to public and private policies that are relevant to the lives of individuals.

For more information:

Mr. Jamil Rabah
Near East Consulting
Mobile +970-59-956-8636
Tel. +970-2-296-1436
Fax +970-2-296-3114
E-mail: info@neareastconsulting.com
<http://www.neareastconsulting.com/>