



**مركز البيان للدراسات والتخطيط**  
Al-Bayan Center for Planning and Studies

# Post-election

## (Notes that need pause)

**Imad Salah Sheikh Daoud**



**Al-Bayan Center Studies Series**

## **About**

Al-Bayan Center for Planning and Studies is an independent, nonprofit think tank based in Baghdad, Iraq. Its primary mission is to offer an authentic perspective on public and foreign policy issues related to Iraq and the region.

Al-Bayan Center pursues its vision by conducting independent analysis, as well as proposing workable solutions for complex issues that concern policymakers and academics.

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**Imad Salah Sheikh Daoud\***

A prelude:

Free and fair elections are a manifestation of the success of the democratic transition and the consolidation of its working mechanisms in political systems that seek successful and effective governance. This calls for the protection of the most important element of political freedom and the expression of opinion from all forms of polling, both at the organizational level and at the promotion level during the campaign period. This prevents the participation of voters, especially young people, and the strong observation of elections.

1. The need for youth participation: youth is the backbone of the democratic process in all its joints, as they have the capacity to participate, campaign and monitor public problems. Any democracy in the world that is absent from the younger generation is a limp transition mechanism, which many nations of the world and the institutions involved in organizing elections do not pay attention to. Public participation rates in general elections are only declared as the end of the day. And neglects to publicize youth participation rates, reflecting the weak paths of interest in the political upbringing of adolescents and young people, particularly within the educational curriculum which, even if it exists, is nothing more than to overturn an imposition without reverence, It ultimately leads to the death of political culture, the most important tool for teaching young people the value of active

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participation in democracy, as well as the absence of what is known as a term. With “liquid democracy” that lends itself to include the political agenda of certain topics, via what is promoted on digital platforms, as is the case in the Taiwanese experience. “When one of the proposals put forward through those platforms is supported by at least 5,000 people, it is accordingly placed on the political agenda, where it is applied jointly with all participants, including those who sent the proposal themselves. Even if they have not yet reached the age of majority”<sup>1</sup>

2. Voter Participation Account: This calculation is critical to gauge the credibility and effectiveness of elections. It also indicates the level of engagement between individuals, therefore, all data collected must be accurately recorded without deletion or manipulation and the institutions responsible for organizing elections have to seriously monitor voter participation because they play an essential role in decision-making through the representative agency that they have given to their representatives, If participation rates are low, these institutions must seek to rectify the situation by addressing problems related to the electoral process, when several factors play their roles. (Age, education, race, occupation, socio-economic status, candidates and issues to be voted on)<sup>2</sup>

It is customary to calculate voter participation in elections to know how many people are eligible to vote because it will help avoid errors in the calculation. The next step is to determine the number of votes cast because they represent the number of individuals who actually participated in the elections (ballot papers must be counted accurately and recounted). Digital processes provide the best way to ensure that ballots are counted, and the number of voters who abstained must be

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1. <https://tinyurl.com/yrqgbj9l>

2. <https://electionbuddy.com/blog/2023/05/29/how-to-calculate-voter-participation/>

calculated. This cannot be overlooked because abstention remains part of the democratic process (it can give an insight into the level of voter participation). Once previous data are documented, the voter turnout can be determined. This is calculated by dividing the number of votes cast by the total number of eligible voters, multiplied by 100. The resulting percentage represents the proportion of eligible voters who participated in the electoral process and is evidence of the public's assessment of the performance and effectiveness (political parties participating in the elections). Within previous policy cycles, the strength and effectiveness of which is one of the indicators of high or low turnout in subsequent elections (i.e. The policy cycles mentioned), it is the confidence gained from good performance that motivates the voter to go back to the ballot box and renew his or her representative agency to his or her representative.

3. Abstaining: In most electoral processes, a number of individuals abstain, whose numbers may increase or decrease depending on the situation; which is a manifestation of democracy as we mentioned in the previous point. But good management of the electoral process, as well as the performance of deputies or representatives at previous sessions; combined with successful implementation of policy cycles are the most effective ways to reduce the abstention rates mentioned.

In a parallel vein, abstention may sometimes contribute to resolving election results, as it did in 2016, when President Donald Trump defeated former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to run for the White House, when nearly 100 million Americans did not vote for president. (Which is more than the number of votes received by any individual candidate) contributed to the race being decided in Trump's favor.

In a third area, Christopher Federico, professor of political science at the University of Minnesota, says<sup>3</sup>:

“If you believe your citizens and government officials are doing their best for themselves and cannot be trusted to behave in a moral way, then a vote is likely to be seen as useless.”

“We have to consider that people who are more open to new experiences are more likely to vote and, conversely, people are” relatively closed-minded and do not like new things “and those are the least open and assertive,” he adds.

4. To those who have an interest in electoral matters and campaign management, it is common knowledge that there are two legitimate methods of administration and one that is considered illegitimate. (Vote-buying, oath taking, counterfeiting, or resorting to violence)<sup>4</sup> These methods move away from electoral ethics and do not lead to the adequacy and integrity of the entire electoral process and subsequently allow policy cycles to fail and people to have a lack of confidence in all political institutions which ultimately reflects negatively on the reputation of the candidate and his party and the party’s sustainability in obtaining the desired seats in the next election, Because the basis for the continuation of the parliamentary agency is trust between the authentic (the citizen who will vote) and the agent (the candidate). Therefore, we find in some established democracies (which are also not without some imbalances, but have managed to apply well the standards of accountability and accountability) some MPs continue to occupy their seats for several cycles and their parties win repeatedly. This is due to the MP’s ability to participate actively in policy sessions and his proximity to the public, credibility and integrity, which is conducive

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3. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/10/30/why-people-choose-not-to-vote.html>

4.D. Kamal Mohammed Mohamed Al-Astal, How to Run a Successful Election Campaign, Gaza: Al-Azhar University, 2015, p. 28. <https://tinyurl.com/yrqgbj9l>

to success as a result of the sanctification of the honor of the profession.

We came upon numerous images depicting threats during campaigns and after elections in another leak within the ethics axis. Some candidates should be discouraged from continuing their campaign and from withdrawing, including threats to the public following the election loss and attacks on close associates using the means of communication.

What happened during the early Tunisian legislative elections was that one candidate spoke of symbolic violence against her:

“The decision to run in itself was not easy. He needed a strong woman who was aware of what awaited her and who was ready for all the obstacles, especially not to be influenced by what was being said around her, and to continue her mission with determination and disregard, because she was well aware that the road would be essentially impassable, because she was a woman who broke into politics in front of a group of males who did not accept the idea of being crowded or winning in front of them. There were many difficult situations, but the most severe was some, whether from the family environment or from outside, trying to influence my daughters, especially my little girl, and pitting them against me. Poor woman, your mother left you alone all day, your mother didn't care about you and your studies, are you satisfied that your mother goes looking for recommendations and returns only at night, and leaves you eating from the street? In addition, other rumors that are never appropriate to say to a little girl, because it is easy to be influenced by what is said because she does not understand well what is going on. “

Another incident in the election itself was an attack by a female candidate who insulted, insulted and spat on her face, only because he asked him to do so to confuse her.

All those practices that move away from electoral ethics distort the reality of the democratic transition and endeavors to build groundbreaking experiences in the world of the South, which has suffered greatly under military elites and absolute totalitarian regimes.

Final proposals:

- It is no secret to anyone who cares about good governance the large and pioneering role of young people, whether eligible to vote or younger, And their influence on decision-making from the stark model of the student revolution in the world during the 1960s to the present day. S participation in the elections, based on sober foundations of political upbringing that allow the building of a democratic sound model of political culture in that important segment, which is often marginalized and far from decision-making.

- The institutions involved in the conduct of elections take into account the scientific means and the correct models for calculating the rate of participation in the elections, thereby increasing the degree of confidence in their work by the public and ensuring their active participation in the forthcoming sessions, as confidence does positively to change attitudes.

- Consider with interest those groups that abstain from voting, approach them as much as possible and try to meet their needs within national development plans, thus opening the horizons for their downsizing during the future elections in a democratic, peaceful and persuasive manner.

The full belief that the democratic transition is valid is based on the existence of these groups, and one of the factors for their success is their participation in the next round.

- International experience throughout the history of democracies in



the world has shown that concern for electoral ethics is a factor in the success of the democratic transition, bridging the relationship between the public and the political forces competing in the elections, and a peaceful opening between all political forces that allows the climate of freedom, justice and peace to recover.