

For immediate release

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A majority of Egyptians intend to vote as confidence in the army weakens, finds a new YouGov poll

Two-thirds of Egyptians indicate they are very likely to vote in the upcoming elections as confidence in the Army facilitating free and fair elections softens since February, finds a new poll of 1992 Egyptians by YouGov.

When asked to rate how likely they are to vote in the upcoming elections on a scale from 0-10 with 0 'not at all likely' and 10 'very likely', 66% select 9 or 10, which holds true across age groups, gender and income. Alongside this, confidence that the army will facilitate the process of free and fair elections has softened. When asked in February 2011 immediately after the resignation of Hosni Mubarak, 81% said they 'strongly believe' and 15% 'believe to some extent' that the army would facilitate the process of fair and free elections. Today, 46% say they 'strongly believe' and 37% say they 'believe to some extent'. On this point it is worth noting a greater proportion of older people express confidence in the army.

When asked why they might vote, civic duty issues come out top such as wanting to bring about a change. However, an analysis of the data reveals that those who have received more information about the election are more likely to vote than those who have received less information. More than half of those who indicate they are unlikely to vote have received little or no information compared to around a quarter of those who indicate they are very likely to vote.

A majority – but not overwhelming - disagree that the response of the security forces to the recent protests is justified. Furthermore, opinion is split, albeit unevenly, about the necessity of the most recent protests.

6 out of 10 disagree with the statement that 'the response of the security forces to the most recent protests in Egypt is 'justified'.

When asked whether the on-going protest in Egypt are necessary actions to achieve the goals of the revolution or unnecessary disruptions when Egypt needs stability and economic recovery, around half select 'necessary' and around 4 out of 10 select 'unnecessary' with the remainder either selecting don't know or preferring not to answer.

A small majority agree that under the draft constitution the Army would retain too much power.

55% agree with the statement that 'the draft constitution produced by the Supreme Council of Armed Forces (SCAF) would allow the military to retain too much power after a civilian government is elected' while a third disagree with the remainder either selecting don't know or preferring not to answer.

The YouGov poll also finds that stability and economic issues top the list of election issues most important to Egyptians. Furthermore, the YouGov poll finds that most

Egyptians intend to participate in the election to bring about change or out of a sense of duty to the country but that around a third are concerned about their safety when voting.

Most important issues:

- Most people are concerned about 'law, order and stability' (82%) and economic issues such as 'creating jobs / unemployment levels' (79%) or 'economic growth' (78%).
- Compared to stability, economic issues and domestic issues, a relatively small proportion of the electorate select the issue of 'Israel and Palestine' as an important issue to them at the next election.
- A greater proportion of those above 40 years old say 'law, order and stability' is an important issue than younger generations.

Stated reasons for voting: agents of change

When asked why they might vote, most say they 'want to bring about a change in their country' (74%) or 'feel it is my duty' (73%) or 'I want to play a part in the democratic process' (63%).

Stated reasons for not voting: personal safety

When asked why they might NOT vote, the reason cited by more people than any other is 'the security situation makes me fear for my safety when voting' (32%).

Most Egyptians believe the election will be conducted fairly; three-quarters indicate they believe the election will be conducted in such a way the result will be legitimate.

In total, 75% say election fraud will be insignificant or non-existent and in total 13% indicate they think election fraud will be significant to the result.

-ENDS-

Notes to editors

All figures, unless otherwise stated are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 1992 Egyptian residents, aged 18+. Fieldwork was undertaken between 23rd to 27th November. The survey was carried out online using YouGov's Egyptian panel of 46,000. The data is representative of the urban adult population of Egypt, by age and gender.

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