



 Global Coalition for Tech Justice

Jordan country briefing

Jordan's September 2024 Elections: Context and key facts

Jordanians went to the polls on 10 September 2024 to elect the members of the lower house of parliament.¹ The election saw more than 1,600 candidates fighting for the votes of over 5 million registered voters, of which 53% were women.²

It was a historical ballot for a number of reasons; It resulted in the moderate Islamist opposition making significant gains, in part due to anger in Jordan over Israel's latest war in Gaza.³ The Islamic Action Front (IAF), the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, won 31 out of the 138 parliamentary seats, tripling its representation in the lower house.⁴

But it was also a test for the new electoral and political party law meant to encourage a bigger participation of women, minorities and political parties in general in parliament.⁵ Still, tribal politics and discriminatory attitudes towards women have reportedly resulted in some female candidates being prevented from running for office by their tribes and the Independent Election Commission.⁶

The European Union election observers concluded that the election was "inclusive" and "well-run". Though only 1.6 million Jordanians cast their ballots amid low interest in the election, media and news sites failed to provide voters with the necessary information.⁷ The EU delegation also "observed that during the campaign, journalists operated under multiple legal restrictions to freedom of expression included in the Cybercrime Law and the Penal Code."⁸

It has to be noted that although Jordan's lower house is elected, it wields limited legislative power, which is still subject to the King's approval since Jordan is a constitutional monarchy ruled by the King.^{9,10} The monarch, who plays a dominant role in politics and governance, appoints all members of the cabinet and the upper house of parliament.¹¹

¹<https://jordantimes.com/news/local/parliamentary-elections-20th-lower-house-be-held-september-10-%E2%80%93-iec>
²<https://www.ifes.org/tools-resources/fags/elections-hashemite-kingdom-jordan-2024-parliamentary-elections>

