



## POLITICAL ORIENTATIONS OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TOWARDS PARTICIPATING IN THE GOVERNORATE COUNCIL ELECTIONS - AN OPINION POLL

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### Abstract

The research is an attempt to study the reality of political participation of university youth, because their participation reduces their political vacuum, increases political development, and is a form of good governance and popular oversight. The research aims to know the political orientations of university students by surveying the opinions of a random sample of them about their level of participation. In the governorate council elections, because they constitute an important percentage in society that qualifies them to be an influential factor in the elections and the victory of the candidates, especially since they have a high level of education and this factor pushes them towards political participation, and they are an influential figure in political work. Among the most important findings of the study: the presence of indicators of frustration and indifference to participation in political affairs among university students because of what they believe are the disadvantages of the practices of political elites, and that they will vote for independent figures from the youth, who have administrative capabilities and integrity, who announce their electoral program, and are respected. The Constitution and is committed to the principles of Islam and defending the interests of its governorate and its voters. Two-thirds of university youth did not participate in the October 2019 demonstrations for various reasons, the most important of which was chaos and the lack of a unified leadership, the deviation of the demonstrations from the real demands for improving services, and the predominance of personal interests and external interference to pressure the government. There are approximately two-thirds of university youth who are interested in following up on the government's performance and evaluating its work, while a quarter of the respondents believe that its performance is no different from its predecessors. Almost as many of them do not have the knowledge to diagnose the government's performance or do not want to, while more than (37%) of the youth believe University confirmed that the performance of the current government is slightly better than previous governments.

**Keywords:** Political participation, University youth, Provincial councils, the Political affair, Universities students.

### INTRODUCTION

Youth are a precious human resource, and they are the most giving group, and with their awareness, righteousness, and vitality, nations rise and countries develop. They are the active element in events, and in various aspects of work, whether humanitarian service, cultural exchange, political movement, or economic work. They are the activator of any trend, and the



engine of any change process. Anticipated or reformed in society, in every revolution for change you find them the element that cannot be overlooked, the most important tool, and the difficult figure in the success or failure of a revolution. They constitute the inevitable linking stage to connect the past with the future, and they are the present who create tomorrow and the leaders of the future.

The United Nations, upon the recommendation of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in Lisbon in 1998, adopted (August 12) of each year as International Youth Day, by its resolution (54/120) on (December 17, 1999) to support and care for them and to remind them of their importance).

It must be noted that there are about one billion individuals between the ages of (15-24), according to the World Health Organization (WHO), that is, about (17-18%) of the world's population. Therefore, (one-sixth) of the Earth's population are young people, and they live About (60%) of them are in Asia, (15%) in developed countries, and the same in the continent of Africa, while they constitute (10%) of the total population of the Latin American and Caribbean continent (), which indicates the strength of the human capital of young people in Asia and the possibility of using their high capabilities to develop their countries, if they are used correctly compared to their percentage in developed countries that are considered poor in terms of their population of youthful energies.

As for Iraqi society, young people constitute about (60%), and according to the estimates of the Ministry of Planning for the year (2018), (25%) is the percentage of representatives in Parliament whose ages are between (28 - 40) years, while the number of citizens between the ages of Between (20-34) years, the percentage is (34%).

## THE METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

The Council of Ministers set Monday (December 18, 2023) as the date for holding (provincial council) elections in (15) governorates, except for the governorates (Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, and Dohuk), which are the first elections for provincial councils in Iraq since the elections (April 2013), as the provincial council elections took place. In 2009, and in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Iraq (2005), the elected councils of the governorates approve and approve the reconstruction plans and projects for the governorate, according to the investment budget allocated to them by the federal government, and it is the responsibility of the members of the governorate council to vote to appoint the governor, heads and directors of departments. In the governorate.

The Independent High Electoral Commission in Iraq has approved (261) political parties that were registered with the Commission as political entities, while the number of registration applications for parties under establishment was (55) applications, in order to



prepare to participate in the upcoming local elections for the governorate councils. As for alliances, the Electoral Commission has opened the door to Registration is before it, at the end of the month (July 2023), as the number of approved alliances has reached (33) alliances, and there are (16) electoral alliances under registration.

The early race has begun for the Iraqi parties to attract new figures and announce new candidates to voters in the upcoming elections for the provincial councils (December 2023), and to know the political orientations of young university students in voting for candidates, whether independent or non-independent, and the criteria they will follow in participating or not, this was Research a poll.

## RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. Knowing the political orientations of university youth, and their level of participation in elections.

2. Consolidating the idea of conscious political participation among university youth, showing their true size, and educating them on their important role in changing political equations.

3. Explain the most important challenges facing their political participation, which may constitute a barrier to reluctance to participate.

Third: The research problem

The political participation of young people represents one of the vital and most discussed issues at the present time, and since university youth are considered the conscious class among their peers, they are the most educated, organized, and prepared to participate and interact with various societal issues, and their participation in public affairs is an important point for change and renewal of blood in the joints of the system. Political and contribution to the ongoing development movement, so the research problem was limited to trying to determine the political orientations of university youth, the extent of their participation in the upcoming governorate council elections, and their effectiveness in participating in the general affairs of society.

Through the questionnaire, we try to determine whether young people participate politically or not, and the reasons for non-participation, and to know their tendencies in choosing and voting for a specific list or a specific candidate, and what are the reasons that prompt them to do so, and the motives that determine their choices, whether they are on grounds related to the political programs proposed, or on the basis of political, social, or other affiliation. Therefore, the research attempts to answer the level of university youth's participation in elections, their orientations, and the extent of their participation in public political affairs.





## RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

The researcher, based on his observations, some preliminary analyses, discussions with students, and their opinions about political affairs, hypothesizes several hypotheses, among the most prominent of which are:

1. University youth will participate in the upcoming elections at an acceptable rate.
2. Frustration with what is happening in the political arena represents the largest factor in youth's reluctance to participate politically.
3. University youth prefer to vote for young and new candidates and not for old candidates they knew previously.
4. University youth prefer to vote for a specific candidate and not for a specific list.
5. University youth prefer to vote for an independent candidate and not for a candidate affiliated with a party.
6. University youth prefer to vote based on the candidate's abilities and the program he presents, rather than on the basis of social connection.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Determining the scientific method that the researcher will follow in his research is one of the important steps in writing scientific research, and the researcher adopted the descriptive analytical method to research the phenomenon of political participation of university youth, in addition to a field survey of the opinions of the study sample to know the level of their political participation through a specific random sample from their segment. To relatively represent the trends of university youth.

The second topic: The nature of political participation

### First: The concept of political participation

It means the individual's follow-up of political issues in his society and his knowledge of them locally, regionally and internationally. Its essence refers to the limits of citizens' influence in the decision-making process. Political scientists see it as the exercise by all adult and rational members of society of their democratic constitutional right to participate in making political decisions without pressure or coercion. Rather, it comes the process of participation is based on the individual's sense of responsibility towards his society, and within the framework of his exercise of freedom of thought and expression of opinion.

The concept of political participation has several definitions, including:





1. Voluntary activities undertaken by members of society with the aim of choosing their rulers and representatives, and contributing to policy and decision-making directly or indirectly. Political participation is not just voting in elections, but rather it is, in general, a clear interest on the part of citizens interested in the issue of political decision.

2. A conscious, voluntary process that expresses the individual's keenness to have a positive role in public political life. It is the sum of individuals' voluntary activities in society to freely and publicly influence political decision-making, and everything that affects their lives, including their criticism of the authorities and government institutions with which they deal, in a way that achieves their interests.

3. A legitimate activity carried out by citizens to influence decision-makers, and an important exercise for individuals to choose rulers.

## **Second: The foundations of political participation**

Political participation is considered one of the foundations of the political system in terms of the legitimacy of the system, and a refined image of the expression of citizenship, the sovereignty of the people, and their exercise of political authority, and an indicator of the political maturity of society. The high level of participation is evidence of its progress and political culture, and an indicator of its awareness of its political rights, and it is affected by the environment of society. And their social upbringing. The availability of appropriate conditions provided by democratic systems and atmospheres leads to active political participation by society, while participation is non-existent or weak in non-democratic environments and conditions.

The "democratic citizen" is the one who cares and participates in public life. He participates in the elections out of a sense of responsibility, direct interest, and indifference to the political situation. The higher the participation rate in the elections, the higher the legitimacy of political authority and the effectiveness and validity of the elections. However, if the voting percentage decreases, this is a danger indicator. The elected authority represents only the minority, so political apathy and lack of participation is a real danger to democracy.

Political participation requires the existence of a society that possesses a sense of belonging and has an interest in public affairs. Political participation plays an important role in developing the mechanisms and rules of democratic governance, and is considered a measure of the development and growth of democratic governments, and the essence and foundation of every political process, regardless of its size, and whether the ruling regime is democratic or dictatorial. It is important for both systems to support and support the ruling regime, but true voluntary participation remains the heart of democracy. A high percentage of participants is an indicator of the expansion of democracy, and a decrease in participation is evidence of the



decline of democracy. This rule may not be compatible with dictatorial regimes because participation may reach very high voting rates. For the ruling person, due to the use of violence and oppression against those who fail to participate in sham elections, which do not go beyond a periodic coercive invitation to vote for the same person, or for whoever has power.

Political participation in its true meaning is a right, a responsibility, a goal, and a means. It requires awareness and desire. It is a political practice that allows every individual to participate in making decisions that will affect his life in the present and the future, without discrimination between individuals on the basis of nationality, religion, sect, or color. Or other class distinctions.

We can point out the most prominent foundations of political participation as follows:

1. Achieving political freedom and creating a climate of intellectual pluralism that allows equal opportunities for all ideas and trends that serve society, and aims to build a state with a solid democracy in which everyone respects the state, its institutions, its constitution, and its laws, and in which national identity is supreme.

2. Members of society enjoy justice and equality in rights and duties. Everyone is equal before the law, regardless of their different affiliations and identities.

3. Building a culture of the importance of the nation's interest as the citizen's highest interest, so that it takes precedence over personal interests, far from looking at the nation from narrow interests that call for personal benefit to the maximum extent possible without taking into account the public interest.

4. Promoting the culture of the importance of political participation as an important part of building the state and consolidating the democratic system, and the citizen being an important part in this building process.

5. Supporting the establishment of strong, independent, partisan political associations and organizations, and providing the appropriate legal environment for their work on the basis of being an important partner in building the political process, and supporting citizens' affiliation with them to enhance their participation and role in decision-making through democratic institutions, taking into account their consideration of the prevailing culture and traditions of the country, Because every society has its own uniqueness.

6. Consolidating the principle of political tolerance among all, accepting all opinions and ideas presented calling for state building, deterring and rejecting all forms of violence and political terrorism to monopolize and cling to power, strictly adhering to all the rules of the democratic game approved by the Constitution, and accepting the results of democratic elections, whatever their outcome.







### Third: Forms of political participation

Political participation is the accumulation of a citizen's political upbringing from childhood until political maturity, and its effects are multiple. There are several forms of political participation, which can be summarized as follows:

1. Be informed of all political issues going on in society and follow them.
2. Adherence to the directives regarding voters issued by the institution responsible for conducting the election process in the country, by registering in the voter registers and obtaining official documents that enable the citizen to vote on election day.
3. Emphasizing the importance of participating in voting on election day, and influencing others and calling on them to participate in the elections.
4. Trying to participate financially or propaganda ally, as much as possible, in election campaigns.
5. Attending political sessions, forums, and conferences, participating in political discussions, expressing opinions, presenting ideas and opinions, and defending them, whether in agreement or opposition to existing political trends, with objectivity and realistic evidence, far from extremism and tyranny.
6. Trying to participate in financially supporting civil society organizations, or joining them as an independent body that seeks to provide work that serves society or establishes a public opinion that influences decision makers.
7. Attempting to become a member of political parties as an entity seeking to gain power, in order to make or influence political decisions.
8. Nomination for political or administrative positions in the legislative or executive branches to directly influence political decision-making.

#### Fourth: Factors of youth reluctance to participate politically

We can summarize the most important factors that led to the reluctance of young people to participate politically in Iraq, through what was indicated by some organizations specialized in political affairs, which conducted a number of studies and field surveys on the level of political participation, in which young people pointed out the most important factors that led to their reluctance from Political participation, or that limited their participation, the most prominent of which can be identified by the following points:

1. The increase in unemployment and poverty rates among young people, and the decline in their economic conditions, has led to their primary concern being obtaining a job opportunity and improving the standard of living for themselves and their families, and their indifference to participating in public affairs. The economic factor plays a fundamental role in the reluctance of young people to participate, whether in volunteer work or Political life.



2. The parties' lack of interest in the youth segment and their political programs including clear and practical plans that achieve their aspirations. Rather, there are general, constructive programs developed by the parties with their proposed programs without specifying clear and practical parameters for those programs that motivate young people to participate.

3. The lack of correct democratic rules for forming and managing parties, and the lack of democracy within the work of parties, which prevents the representation of young people and reduces their opportunities for political candidacy.

4. Frustration and young people's feeling of inability to participate in making decisions and laws related to their rights or to influence them, and not being given the opportunity to participate effectively within parties.

5. The weak political awareness and democratic culture of young people, and their loss of the opportunity for effective political upbringing and training to manage a party or student union that motivates them to participate positively in public affairs.

6. The lack of curricula at various school or university levels to establish a foundation for their democratic education and political awareness, and the state's failure to adopt institutions specialized in building and strengthening democracy and political participation among members of society at all levels, as in many democratic countries.

7. The majority of families oppose their children's interest in political work, and are even afraid of any form of political participation.

8. The feeling of the lack of integrity of the elections, the feasibility of participation, and the seriousness of political reform, and the loss of confidence in many of those involved in political action, due to suspicions of corruption affecting some of them, in addition to the apprehension about freely expressing political opinion because that may expose them to harm and persecution.

9. The weak role of governmental or partisan media institutions in terms of the messages they send or the feedback they receive. In terms of the former, their messages are unable to influence the recipient to change his orientation towards active participation, spreading democratic practice and presenting realistic models of democratic behavior. In terms of feedback, the media conveys messages from the leadership to the public, but without receiving the public's reactions through feedback and communicating their demands and aspirations to the political leadership ().

### **The third section: The questionnaire form and analysis of its answers**

First: the research sample, question design and content





The research sample is a segment of university youth, and due to the researcher's inability to survey all of this segment and poll their opinion, he narrowed the research, taking into consideration objectivity in choosing the sample to represent the segment whose opinion and suitability to the study community, so the sample was university youth of both sexes and all stages. The study sample was drawn from students from the University of Kufa, Jaber Ibn Hayyan University of Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and private universities and colleges in the Najaf Governorate, and from various scientific and humanitarian studies. Thus, the sample was random from university students.

As for the time of the research, its scope was determined in the period preceding the provincial council elections in Iraq, which will be held in (December 2023), and specifically, the opinion poll of university students was conducted between (August 15 - September 15) before the elections.

The random sample reached (210) students of both sexes, and from various educational levels. The number of university students participating in the survey reached (90), making their percentage about (42.85%) of the total number of participants, while the number of participating female students was (120) female students, their percentage was about (57.15%) of the total respondents. The data was collected electronically, by distributing an electronic link to the students, and the student who wishes to participate answers the questions included in the link through the (Google) program. com/forms), the number of responses received was (210), and the link was disseminated to the students through a group of their colleagues with whom the researcher contacted to clarify the questions raised and the goal of the research.

As for the design of the opinion poll questions, it was done in an easy-to-answer manner, by taking into account the logical sequence of the questions, while specifying one answer for each question out of two answers or from several answers without any difficulty for the respondent, so that the question is specifically answered with one idea, away from unclear words that are open to suggestion or guesswork. According to the opinions and experiences of specialists in measuring public opinion, the questions were presented to a number of specialists for their comments, led by Professor Dr. Balqis Muhammad Jawad, Professor of Political Sociology at the University of Baghdad, Al-Farabi University College in Baghdad, and the Al-Alamein Institute for Postgraduate Studies in the former Holy City of Najaf.

While the content of the questions was about the family's standard of living, participation in the previous House of Representatives elections that took place in (2021) or not, the reasons for not participating if the respondent was not participating in it, and whether he will participate in the governorate council elections that are scheduled to be held next December 2023, and the reasons for non-participation for those who responded not to participate.



As for those who answered that they would participate in the upcoming elections, a set of questions were put to them regarding their participation, namely: Will they vote for an entire list or for a specific candidate within a list? Will they vote for an independent or non-independent candidate? Will they vote for a youth candidate or someone over the age of 55? Age, and will he vote for a candidate from the region, clan, or friends, or for someone who meets administrative standards and capabilities? Will he be one of the new candidates who announces his electoral program, or one of the members of the provincial council or former officials who have proven his competence and integrity in work? Is he one of the well-known figures? Who is interested in political affairs and has previous political experience, or who respects the constitution, is committed to the principles of Islam, and defends the interests of his province and voters.

There were a set of questions about political and future trends and follow-up of political affairs, which are: Do you want to participate in the political process in the future by nominating for any upcoming elections as a member of the provincial council or as a member of the House of Representatives? And for those who answered yes, will they nominate independently or through a list of independents or from While joining a particular party, do you care about watching political programs and following general news, do you discuss political issues with family and friends, and did you participate in the demonstrations (October 2019), and for those who answered not to participate, what were the reasons for that? Was it due to a lack of interest in what is happening, or because Chaos and the lack of a unified leadership, or because the demonstrations deviate from the real demands for improving services, or because of the predominance of personal interests and external interference, and finally, do you follow the government's performance and evaluate its work, and what is your assessment of the performance of the current government if it is weaker, equal, or better than the work and performance of the previous governments.

## **Second: Questions and analysis of their answers**

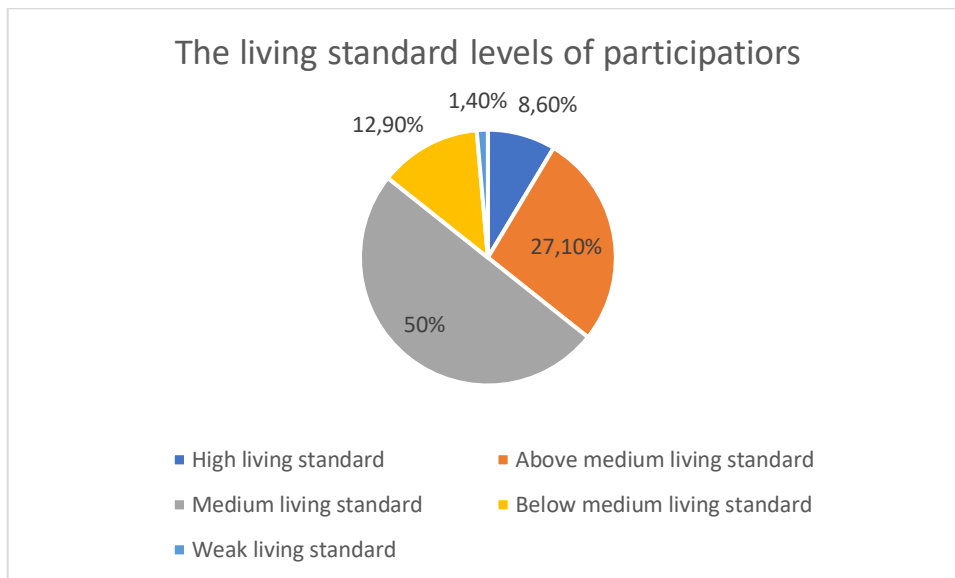
The first question: It was about the family's standard of living because the economic situation is a factor that greatly influences the individual's political participation or not. The comfortable or average economic situation of the individual with the availability of desire is a helpful factor and has a major impact on political participation. The participation process increases in proportion with the economic situation improves, and vice versa when the economic situation deteriorates.

The researcher divided the answers to this question into (5) levels for the families of those whose opinions were polled, which are:





1. A high and luxurious standard of living: The number of students whose families enjoyed this standard was (18), meaning their percentage was about (8.6%).
2. An above-average level that allows for the purchase of some luxuries: The number of students whose families lived at this level was (57) students, so their percentage was (27.1%).
3. Intermediate level, slightly more than daily needs, far from luxuries: The number of students at this level was (105), meaning that their percentage was (50%).
4. A sub-average standard of living that only meets daily needs: The number of students at this level was (27) students, meaning that their percentage was (12.9%).
5. Poor standard of living: It was the last level in the answers, and the number of students at this level was only (3), and their percentage was (1.4%).



Through the standard of living of those polled, we find that the majority of them are in a good economic situation, as the researcher found that more than (85%) of them had families from the middle class or higher, which supports their political participation if they have the desire to participate.

The second question: Did you participate in the previous House of Representatives elections that took place in 2021?

The answers of (132) students, i.e. (62.85%), were (no), compared to (78) students, i.e. (37.15%), with (yes). This means that the percentage of university students participating in the last elections is A small percentage, and less than the total percentage of participants in the elections, which according to the announcement of the Independent High Electoral Commission reached (43.54%), which means that there is a state of non-participation in



political affairs and elections among young people and university students in particular, and its reasons should be known.

Question Three: If your answer was not to participate in the previous elections, what are the reasons for that?

This question was answered by all of the respondents who answered “no” to the previous question, and their number reached (132) students, as we indicated. The researcher determined (6) answers to this question, distributed among:

1. Lack of interest in elections and political issues: Their number reached (12), i.e. (9.1%).
2. The absence of my name in the voters' register: their number is (0).
3. Not obtaining a voter card: Their number is (60), i.e. (45.5%).
4. I did not find any candidate to represent me: their number is (12), i.e. (9.1%).
5. Frustration and ineffectiveness of participation: Their number is (21), i.e. (15.9%).
6. Other: Their number is (27), i.e. (20.5%).

The answers to this question identified the reasons for non-participation that should be known, as we indicated in the previous question, and the above numbers show that a small percentage of the respondents are not interested in the elections and political issues, and who did not find any candidate to represent them, as well as those who are frustrated and believe that participation is useless, which is What differs from what the researcher assumed in his second hypothesis, is that the biggest reason for university youth not participating was not their frustration, but rather there is another reason, which is not obtaining a voter card, which is the biggest reason among the other reasons that the researcher assumed, and the majority of the respondents indicated this reason. Failure to obtain a voter card is due to two reasons: the first is related to the voter himself not updating his data or receiving his card from the Election Commission, and the second is related to the work of the Commission itself and its access to voters to update their records.

There is a percentage of those who have other reasons that prevented them from participating in the elections. As for the absence of the name in the voter register, there were no respondents who did not find their name in the voter register, and this means either their participation and the presence of their name, or that they did not go to participate in the elections at all.

Question Four: Will you participate in the governorate council elections scheduled to be held in December 2023?

The answers to this question were distributed among (84) of those who answered “yes”, meaning (40%) of those who will participate in the next elections, which is a slightly higher percentage than those who participated in the previous elections, and among those who answered “no”, and their number was (57), that is, a percentage of (27.1%), which is a lower



percentage compared to those who did not participate in the previous elections, as we mentioned in the second question. As for those who answered “maybe” they will participate in the next elections, their number was (69) students, that is, a percentage of (32.9%), and they are among those who are hesitant about participating or not. If any number of them participate, this means that the percentage of university students participating in the upcoming elections will increase, which supports the researcher’s first hypothesis.

Question five: If your answer is not to participate in the upcoming governorate council elections, what are the reasons?

(126) students answered this question out of a total of (210) students. All those who answered “no” to the previous question answered this question, and their number reached (57) students, as we mentioned, in addition to (69). ) Others who answered “maybe” will participate, which means that they have indirectly decided their position not to participate in the elections, because all the answers to this question are answers to reasons related to non-participation, meaning that a percentage of (40%) of university students will participate in the elections, This is a percentage slightly higher than the percentage of those who participated in the previous elections, as we indicated.

The researcher identified (5) answers to this question, distributed among:

1. Lack of interest in elections and political issues: Their number is (21), i.e. (16.6%).
2. The ineffectiveness of the existence of governorate councils (a redundant circle):

Their number is (27), i.e. (21.4%).

3. Frustration with the practices of former governorate council members: They are the same number as before.

4. Not updating the voter register: Their number is (12), i.e. (9.5%).

5. Other: Their number is (39), i.e. (31.1%).

The above percentages indicate that lack of interest in political issues and failure to update the voter registry as reasons did not constitute a large percentage, as they amounted to approximately (26%), and these are reasons related to the interest of the student himself and his drive to participate, compared to the other reasons mentioned: the futility of the existence of governorate councils, frustration, and other reasons. Which relates to the opinion and belief of university students regarding the reasons for not participating in the elections, noting that the reasons for not participating in the upcoming elections differed from the reasons for not participating in the previous elections.

The sixth question: If you participate in the upcoming elections, who will you vote for? This question included answers to (6) axes, and was answered by (153) students. Everyone who answered the fourth question with (yes) and with (maybe) will participate. The six axes are:

1. Will you vote for an entire list or for a specific candidate within a list?



On this axis, the number of those who would vote for an entire list was (21) students, representing (13.7%), compared to (132) students, representing (86.3%) who would vote for a specific candidate within a list. This is an indication of university youth electing a candidate who possesses qualifications that call for To elect him, and not voting for a list that includes those the voter knows and those he does not know, is his commitment to voting for a list headed by a political symbol, and often this symbol is not a candidate for the elections, or a candidate in another district or governorate, and these results confirmed the researcher's fourth hypothesis of voting for a candidate himself and not for a specific list.

2. Will you vote for an independent or non-independent candidate?

On this axis, (123) students, with a percentage of (80.4%), answered that they would vote for an independent candidate, compared to only (30) students, with a percentage of (19.6%), who answered that they would vote for a non-independent candidate. This is a clear indication of the extent to which University youth tend to vote for independent figures rather than those affiliated with political parties, as the researcher assumed in his fifth hypothesis.

3. Will you vote for a young candidate or someone over 55 years of age?

On this axis, (102) students, with a percentage of (66.6%), answered that they would vote for a youth candidate, compared to (51) students, with a percentage of (33.3%), who answered that they would vote for a candidate over (55) years of age, and the percentages The above indicates that two-thirds of university youth will vote for candidates of their age peers, compared to the third who will vote for those over 55 years of age, which supports the third hypothesis of the researcher.

4. Will you vote for a candidate from the region, clan, friends, or a candidate who has the appropriate standards and administrative capabilities?

This fourth axis of the sixth question was answered by (153) students, as we mentioned previously, and only (12) of them were students, with a percentage of (7.8%), stating that they would vote for a candidate from the region, clan, or friends, compared to (141) students, with a percentage of ( 92.2% responded that they would vote for a candidate who has the appropriate standards and administrative capabilities, and this large percentage of voting for a candidate who has the appropriate standards and administrative capabilities compared to the small percentage of university youth voting for a candidate from the region, clan, or friends is important evidence and a clear indication of the rate of increase. There is a great deal of political awareness among university youth, and regional and relational influences melted among university youth through their political awareness and orientation towards building their homeland. These answers supported the researcher's sixth hypothesis.

5. Will you vote for a new candidate who announces his electoral program, a former provincial council member, or an official who has proven his competence and integrity in work?





As for this axis, (93) students, with a percentage of (60.8%), answered that they would vote for a new candidate who would announce his electoral program, compared to (60) students, with a percentage of (39.2%), who answered that they would vote for a former member of the provincial council. Or an official who has proven his competence and integrity in work, and here we notice a state of close balance for university youth by voting between those who want to know his electoral program and the candidate's announcement of it in order to hold him accountable later for what he promised, and voting for those who worked previously and have proven to them his competence in work and his integrity in dealings, and this was supported. Ratio is the third assumption of the researcher.

6. Will you vote for a candidate who is a well-known person interested in politics and has significant previous political experience, or for a candidate who respects the constitution, is committed to the principles of Islam, and defends the interests of his governorate and his voters?

Only (21) students, with a percentage of (13.7%), answered that they would vote for a candidate who is a well-known person interested in politics and has significant previous political experience, compared to (132) students, with a percentage of (86.3%), who answered that they would vote for a candidate who respects The constitution and is committed to the principles of Islam and defending the interests of its governorate and its voters. Here we clearly notice that university youth are moving towards figures who are known to respect the constitution and who adhere to the principles of the Islamic religion, as well as defending the interests of their governorates and voters. This is an indicator that indicates the presence of high legal and religious awareness among university youth. In addition to the importance of their choosing a candidate known for defending the interests of his governorate and voters.

The seventh question: (Do you want to participate in the political process in the future by running for any future elections as a member of the House of Representatives or a member of the Provincial Council?)

All (210) students in the study answered this question, and the answers were divided between yes, no, and maybe, as (30) students, with a percentage of (14.3%), answered with (yes) that they have a desire to engage in the political process in the future. (138) students, with a percentage of (65.7%), answered "No," meaning he has no desire to do so, while (42) students, with a percentage of (20%), answered with "Maybe," which indicates that a good percentage of university youth who Those who answered yes or were hesitant to engage in political work in the future answered "maybe," compared to the total percentage, meaning that there are approximately a quarter of the male and female students surveyed who have the desire and drive to work in political life.

Question Eight: If the answer is (yes), do you want to run for elections independently, or run for elections through a list of independents, or run for election by joining a specific party?



To this question, (72) students answered, and they are all who answered “yes” and “maybe” to the previous question. The answer of (57) of them, i.e. (79.1%), was that he would run for elections independently, and (12) answered. (16.7%) students said that he would run for elections through a list of independents, while only (3) students (4.2%) answered that he would run for elections by joining a specific party. These answers confirm the answers to the previous questions for university youth and direct them towards... Independents. Nearly 96% of the total respondents to this question consider their orientations to be independent, which is a very large percentage, despite the fact that the democratic system that we witness today as a political system must be led by political parties, as it is not possible for a group of independents without joining under a partisan institution that regulates their political work is to lead the system, and if an independent takes over the head of the political pyramid, it must be through the approval of the winning political parties, and if the head of the executive pyramid does not have a comfortable base of members of the House of Representatives, he cannot inevitably continue without parliamentary cover to implement His government programme.

Question 9: Do you care about watching political programs and following general news?

All (210) students in the study answered this question, with (108) of them (51.4%) indicating (yes), while (102) students (48.6%) answered (no). This indicates that there is a very large percentage of up to half of the university youth respondents who are not interested in political affairs, and this is something that needs to be researched and the reasons for this determined.

Question 10: Do you discuss political issues with family and friends?

All (210) students in the study also answered this question, as (114) students (54.3%) answered (yes), while (96) students (45.7%) answered (no). This also indicates the lack of interest of a large percentage of university youth in political affairs.

Question eleven: Did you participate in the demonstrations and protests of October 2019?

(207) students from the total number of respondents answered it, as (72) of them, with a percentage of (34.8%), answered with (yes), while (135) students, with a percentage of (65.2%), answered with (no), meaning not to participate. ).

Question 12: If your answer is “no” to the previous question, what is the reason for not participating? Is it a lack of interest in what is happening, or because of chaos and the lack of a unified leadership, or because the demonstrations deviate from the real demands for improving services, or because of the prevailing Personal interests and external interference to pressure the government.

All 135 students who answered “no” to the previous question answered this question, and their answers were divided into the following topics:



Lack of interest in what is happening, (10) students, at a rate of (7.4%).

Due to chaos and the lack of a unified leadership, (63) students, with a percentage of (46.7%).

Due to the deviation of the demonstrations from the real demands for improving services, (40) students, with a percentage of (29.6%).

Due to the predominance of personal interests and external interference to pressure the government, (22) students, with a percentage of (16.3%).

The above percentages indicate that among the university youth who did not participate in the protests, their non-participation was not due to a lack of interest in what is happening politically in the country, but rather due to chaos, the lack of a unified leadership, and the deviation of the demonstrations from the real demands for improving services, and these reasons constituted a percentage exceeding (76%) of those who abstained from participating, which indicates great awareness among university youth in their political view of what is happening in the country.

Question thirteen: Do you follow the government's performance and evaluate its work?

All 210 students responded to this question, as (129) students answered (yes), at a rate of (61.4%), while (81) students, at a rate of (38.6%), answered (no). This confirms the interest of university youth in monitoring the government's performance and evaluating its work.

Question fourteen: What is your assessment of the current government's performance?

It is the last question and was answered by all (210) students, and their answers were divided into the following topics:

Its performance is weak. Previous governments were better, only (6), at a rate of (2.9%).

Its performance does not differ from previous governments, (51) students, with a rate of (24.3%).

Slightly better than previous governments, (78) students, with a rate of (37.1%).

Better than all previous governments, and we expect more from them, (30) students, at a rate of (14.3%).

- I don't know, (45) students, with a percentage of (21.4%).

These numbers indicate a small percentage of university youth who believe in the weak performance of the government, while approximately a quarter of the respondents believe that the performance of the current government is no different from its predecessors, and almost the same number does not have the knowledge to diagnose the government's performance or does not want to, while more than (37%) believe Of the university youth who were researched, the performance of the current government is slightly better than previous governments.





## CONCLUSIONS

A number of conclusions can be drawn from the results of the survey questions and their analysis:

1. The individual's comfortable or average economic situation, along with a desire to participate politically, is an influential and helpful factor. The rate of political participation increases directly with the improvement of the economic situation, and vice versa.

2. There are indications of a lack of participation in political affairs and public life among young people and university students, especially because of what university youth believe about the disadvantages of the behaviour and practices of political elites, which are reflected in the aspects of the political process.

3. There is a small percentage of university youth who are not interested in elections and political issues, and another percentage is frustrated and believes that participation is useless. The largest number and highest percentage are those who have not obtained a voter card, which requires IHEC employees to reach the largest number of voters to update their data or hand them over their cards. By reaching universities, government departments, and others.

4. There is a higher percentage of university youth participation in the upcoming elections than in the previous elections.

5. Young people's lack of interest in political issues, and their failure to update their voter registry, did not constitute a large percentage of the reasons for their non-participation in the elections compared to other reasons such as the ineffectiveness of the existence of provincial councils, frustration, and others.

6. The largest percentage of university youth will vote for a specific candidate within a list, and not for a specific list, which is an indicator of electoral awareness among university youth.

7. There is a clear trend among university youth towards voting for young figures, independents, and those who have the appropriate standards and administrative capabilities, and not from the region, clan, or friends, provided that he announces his electoral program, or is one of those who worked previously and proved to them his competence and integrity in his work. These are important indicators of the high rate of political awareness among university youth.

8. Well-known political figures and those who have extensive political experience are not among the important criteria for a candidate among university youth, while the criteria that they want the candidate to meet are those who respect the constitution, adhere to the principles of Islam, and defend the interests of his province and voters. So, respecting the constitution, adhering to the principles of the Islamic religion, and defending Regarding the interests of the



governorate and voters, it constituted the majority of the criteria required of a candidate by university youth.

9. There is a percentage of up to a quarter of university youth, who have the desire and drive for political life, and to engage in political work in the future, but they will run for elections through a list of independents away from party affiliation, despite the fact that in the democratic system that we witness today there is no escape from the leadership of political parties. To him, as a group of independents cannot lead the system, and in the event that an independent takes over the presidency of the government, it must be through the approval of the political parties that won the elections as an electoral entitlement to them, in addition to the fact that the lack of a comfortable base of members of the House of Representatives to support the government inevitably means the inability To continue without parliamentary cover to support its directions and the implementation of its program.

10. There are about half of university youth who are not interested in following political affairs or learning about them and discussing them. This is something that needs to be researched and the reasons determined.

11. Two-thirds of university youth did not participate in the demonstrations (October 2019) for various reasons, the most important of which was chaos and the lack of a unified leadership, the deviation of the demonstrations from the real demands for improving services, and the predominance of personal interests and external interference to pressure the government. These reasons constituted more than (92%). ) is one of the reasons why young people abstain from participating, which indicates a state of great awareness among university youth in their political view of what is happening in the country.

12. There are about two-thirds of university youth who are interested in following up on the government's performance and evaluating its work.

13. There is a small percentage of university youth who believe in the weakness of the current government's performance, and a quarter of the respondents believe that its performance is no different from its predecessors. Almost as many of them do not have the knowledge to diagnose the government's performance or do not want to, while more than (37%) of them believe that the government's performance The current governments are slightly better than previous governments.

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