



بنیاد انتخابات شفاف افغانستان  
د افغانستان درنو ټاکنو بنسټ  
Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan

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## *Second Survey on the 2019 Presidential Election*

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Elections are the easiest, cheapest, and most commonly employed means for facilitating people's political participation in a country. Citizens' meaningful participation in political processes holds a clear indication of democratic sustainability in a society. Election are characterized by their ability to transfer authority and power from one party to another with peace and harmony; however, in its absence, serious political problems and challenges may be aroused. Therefore, citizens' participation in elections is one of the key attributes and cornerstone of all true democratic societies.

Experiencing 6 rounds of elections has not been enough to address the challenges and gaps in this important process, which is why after each election citizens have lost their trust and confidence because of serious upsurge in electoral fraud and violation. The incumbent afghan government along with the international community and election management bodies have failed miserably to restore citizens' trust in the process.

TEFA with the help of its 47 provincial coordinators, over a course of 5 months, conducted its first nationwide survey on the coming 2019 elections to capture and share a clear picture of citizens' will on whether or not they are to take part in the coming election and to whom they are planning to vote, result of which was released at the beginning of the campaign period. Now, this second survey was conducted with the notion to gauge how perceptions have altered or perhaps have remained static during the campaign period in terms of how optimistic public is about the coming presidential election and whether or not their views about a particular presidential candidate have changed. The results of this survey are legitimate and justifiable, and therefore must be considered by all afghan election stakeholders mainly the incumbent afghan government, international community, EMBs and presidential candidates.

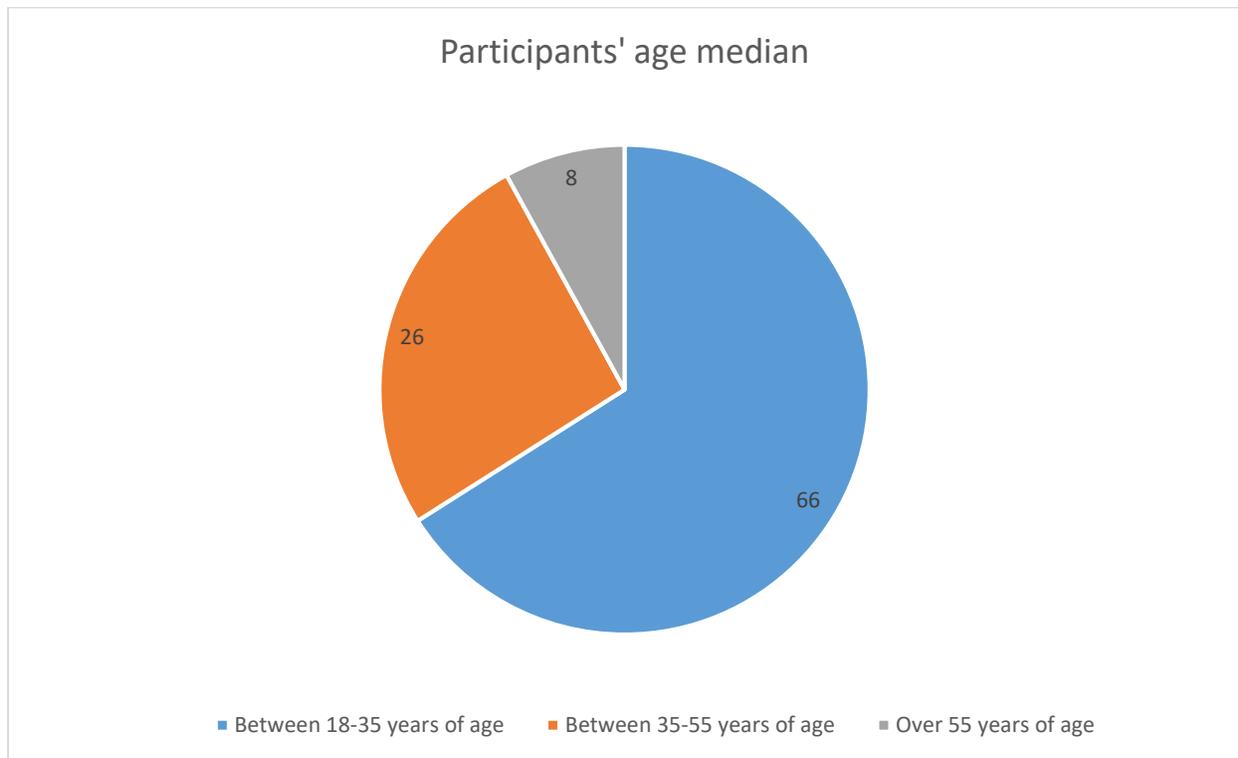
This survey was made possible through three research methods namely online questionnaires, offline questionnaire, and focus group discussions, whereby each of the methods revolved around the following three main questions:

1. Are you willing to participate in the coming 2019 Presidential Election?
2. If yes, whom would you vote for?
3. If no, what are your reasons for not participating in the coming election?

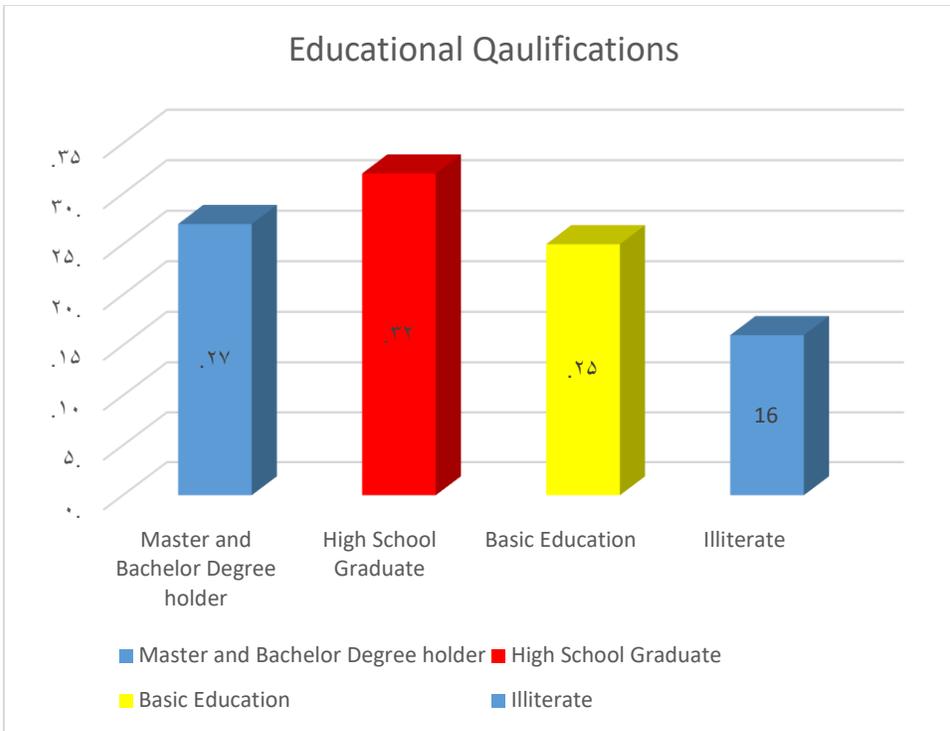
In this survey, we had 6,834 participants in which 3,461 were interviewed online and the remaining 3,109 were interviewed offline, and 273 more were invited for detailed FGDs on the 2019 Presidential Election. Soon after the survey was complete, all the offline questionnaires were received from the 47 provincial

coordinators and were handed over to TEFA's research team for a deep scrutiny and analysis of the findings which are presented as follows:

1. All 34 provinces were covered in this survey.
2. A total of 6,843 individuals participated in this survey, out of which, 64% were male and the remaining 36% were female participants.
3. 66% of the participants were between the ages of 18-35, 26% of them were around 35-55, and the remaining 8% of the participants were above 55 years of age.



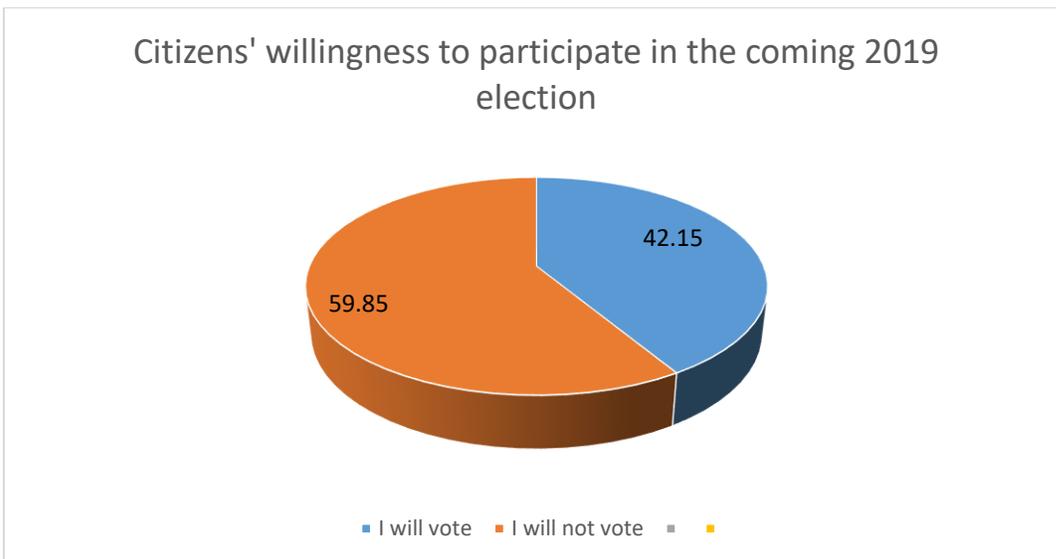
- 58% of the participants were self-employed, 25% of them were public and private sector employees, and the remaining 17% of them were university students.
- 27% of the participants were master and bachelor degree holders, 32% of them were high school graduates, 25% had basic education, and the remaining 16% were illiterate.



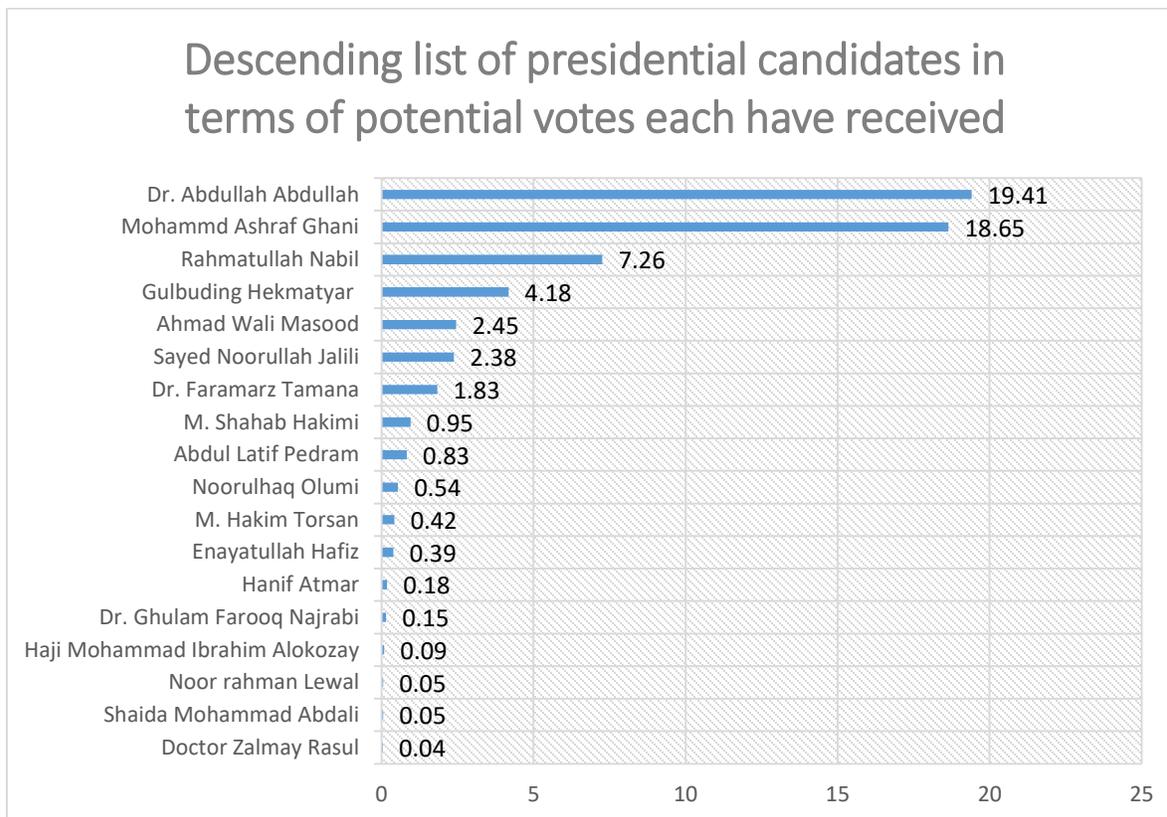
**Survey Results:**

With one simple question having three main components, TEFA managed to know about citizens’ willing to participate in the coming 2019 Presidential elections, see which candidate leads the race so far, and to also find out about why some citizens are unwilling to take in the coming election. By interviewing 6843 participants and analyzing the findings, this survey concluded with the following results:

- 40.15% of the participants have no interest in the coming election and will not vote to any of the presidential candidates.



- 59.85% of the participants will participate in the 2019 election. In the following table, presidential candidates have been listed in a descending order in terms of the number of potential votes each have received:



Those who expressed no interest in the coming election, justified their lack of participation with the following reasons:

1. Absence of a desired candidate.
2. Electoral tickets lacked proper security, economic, social, and political plans during their campaigns.
3. Absence of IEC's independency and impartiality.
4. EMBs lack technical capacity, integrity and commitment.
5. Adverse security conditions.
6. Government's interventions in EMBs operations.
7. Symbolic and metaphoric nature of elections with little to no value given to citizens' vote.
8. Absence of a strong reason for citizens to participate in elections, as in retrospect, after each election, living conditions have become much worse than before.
9. Upsurge in malpractices and injustice growing to its optimum level.
10. Unplanned and unnecessary interventions of foreign countries in Afghanistan's electoral affairs especially of those who provide financial support.
11. Poor satisfaction from the work of the NUG.
12. Candidates and politician not doing well on their promises.