CITIZENS ATTITUDES TOWARD SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON

March – April 2021 Survey Findings
National Democratic Institute
• National telephone survey conducted March 10 to April 6, 2021
• 2,406 respondents surveyed
  • Beirut = 285
  • Mount Lebanon = 451
  • North Lebanon = 412
  • Bekaa = 400
  • South Lebanon = 375
  • Nabatieh = 383
• Margin of Error (MoE) on national sample: +/- 5.0 percent
COUNTRY MOOD
In general, are things in Lebanon going in the right direction or the wrong direction? (TOTAL)

- Right direction: 3%
- Wrong direction: 97%
In general, are things in Lebanon going in the right direction or the wrong direction? (TREND LINE)
What do you see as Lebanon's greatest asset? (TOTAL)

- Young generation: 53%
- Oil and Gas sector development: 20%
- Diversity: 15%
- Don't know: 4%
- More women in political life: 3%
- More independents in political life: 3%
- Start-up culture: 2%
What do you see as Lebanon's greatest asset? (AGE/GENDER)

- Young generation: 52%, 53%, 55%, 52%, 54%, 19%, 21%, 16%, 2%, 4%, 1%, 2%, 19%, 2%, 3%, 3%, 2%
- Oil and Gas sector development: 16%, 17%, 13%, 16%, 15%, 2%, 2%, 3%, 3%, 2%, 3%, 2%, 2%
- Diversity: 19%, 19%, 21%, 21%, 19%, 2%, 3%, 3%, 2%, 2%, 3%, 2%, 2%
- More independents in political life: 2%, 3%, 1%, 2%, 2%, 3%, 3%, 3%, 2%, 2%, 3%, 2%
- More women in political life: 2%, 2%, 2%, 2%, 2%, 2%, 2%, 2%, 2%, 2%, 2%, 2%
- Start-up culture: 2%, 2%, 1%, 2%, 2%, 2%, 2%, 2%, 2%, 2%, 2%, 2%
What do you see as Lebanon's greatest asset? (GOVERNORATE/RELIGION)

- Beirut: 52% (Young generation), 23% (Oil and Gas sector development), 15% (Diversity), 12% (More independents in political life), 9% (More women in political life), 2% (Start-up culture)
- North Lebanon: 52% (Young generation), 27% (Oil and Gas sector development), 14% (Diversity), 13% (More independents in political life), 8% (More women in political life), 2% (Start-up culture)
- Mount Lebanon: 39% (Young generation), 34% (Oil and Gas sector development), 15% (Diversity), 12% (More independents in political life), 9% (More women in political life), 2% (Start-up culture)
- Bekaa: 57% (Young generation), 20% (Oil and Gas sector development), 15% (Diversity), 13% (More independents in political life), 8% (More women in political life), 2% (Start-up culture)
- South Lebanon: 72% (Young generation), 9% (Oil and Gas sector development), 5% (Diversity), 3% (More independents in political life), 1% (More women in political life), 1% (Start-up culture)
- Nabatieh: 50% (Young generation), 21% (Oil and Gas sector development), 13% (Diversity), 3% (More independents in political life), 2% (More women in political life), 2% (Start-up culture)
- Muslims: 54% (Young generation), 16% (Oil and Gas sector development), 2% (Diversity), 1% (More independents in political life), 2% (More women in political life), 2% (Start-up culture)
- Christians: 52% (Young generation), 27% (Oil and Gas sector development), 11% (Diversity), 4% (More independents in political life), 3% (More women in political life), 4% (Start-up culture)
IMPACT OF THE PROTEST MOVEMENT
Do you believe that the October 2019 protests movement brought change to the political environment in Lebanon? (TOTAL)

- Yes: 23%
- No: 77%
If yes, in your opinion, what were the important changes? (TOTAL)

- The de legitimization of political leaders: 46%
- Increase in the political awareness of the people: 44%
- Increase in the engagement and participation in political discourse: 21%
- Increase environmental awareness such as Marj Bisri: 19%
- Increase the awareness of the need to find corruption among political leaders: 14%
- The removal of the societal divisions' barriers: 14%
- The enactment of laws to fight corruptions: 9%
- The traction gained by the civic organizations and parties: 4%
- The emergence of the October 17th movement as an important political actor: 4%
- It impacted the country negatively on multiple levels: 3%
If yes, in your opinion, what were the important changes? (AGE)

- The delegitimization of political leaders
- Increase in the political awareness of the people
- Increase in the engagement and participation in political discourse
- Increase environmental awareness such as Marj Bisri
- Increase the awareness of the need to find corruption among political leaders
- The removal of the societal divisions' barriers
- The enactment of laws to fight corruptions
- The traction gained by the civic organizations and parties
- The emergence of the October 17th movement as an important political actor
- It impacted the country negatively on multiple levels
IMPACT OF THE PROTEST MOVEMENT

If yes, in your opinion, what were the important changes? (GENDER)

- The delegitimization of political leaders
- Increase in the political awareness of the people
- Increase in the engagement and participation in political discourse
- Increase environmental awareness such as Marj Bisri
- Increase the awareness of the need to find corruption among political leaders
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Female Male

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<th>Change</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
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<tr>
<td>The delegitimization of political leaders</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>46%</td>
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<td>17%</td>
<td>21%</td>
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IMPACT OF THE PROTEST MOVEMENT

In your opinion, do you believe that the October 2019 protest movement changed political discourse among citizens from sectarian language to more national and civil rights language? (TOTAL/GOVERNORATE)

Yes  No

TOTAL  38%  62%
Beirut  62%  34%
North Lebanon  66%  40%
Mount Lebanon  59%  41%
Bekaa  57%  50%
South Lebanon  50%  50%
Nabatieh  33%  28%

TOTAL  72%  28%
ELECTIONS
ELECTIONS

Are going to vote in the upcoming parliamentary elections? (TOTAL)

- Yes: 38%
- I don't know, still undecided: 17%
- No: 45%
Are going to vote in the upcoming parliamentary elections? (AGE/GENDER)
ELECTIONS

Are going to vote in the upcoming parliamentary elections? (GOVERNORATE)

Yes  I don't know, still undecided  No

TOTAL  Beirut  North Lebanon  Mount Lebanon  Bekaa  South Lebanon  Nabatieh
What will motivate you the most to vote? (TOTAL)

- Nothing: 41%
- My civic duty: 24%
- Supporting new and independent candidates: 14%
- Services offered by a candidate: 9%
- I want to support my sect: 4%
- Supporting my political party: 3%
- Don't know: 2%
- Cash offered by a candidate: 2%
- Seeing women running: 2%
MEDIA & FREEDOM OF THE PRESS
In your opinion, since the protests, has Lebanese media (TV, radio stations, newspaper, and online sites)… (TOTAL)

- Remained the same: 18%
- Improved: 1%
- Became worse: 42%
- Don't know: 39%
In general, do you trust Lebanese media (TV, radio stations, newspapers, and online sites)? (AGE/GENDER)
To what extent do you think freedom of the media is guaranteed when criticizing the government? (TOTAL)

- Not guaranteed at all: 37%
- Guaranteed to a limited extent: 29%
- Guaranteed to a medium extent: 25%
- Guaranteed to a great extent: 7%
TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS & POLICY PRIORITIES
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On a scale of 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest) how do you rate the following institutions? (TOTAL)

- Civil Society Organizations
  - Very Untrustworthy: 7%
  - Untrustworthy: 34%
  - Neutral: 23%
  - Trustworthy: 28%
  - Very Trustworthy: 7%
  - Don't Know: 1%

- Internal Security Forces
  - Very Untrustworthy: 7%
  - Untrustworthy: 21%
  - Neutral: 15%
  - Trustworthy: 41%
  - Very Trustworthy: 16%
  - Don't Know: 3%

- Judiciary System
  - Very Untrustworthy: 22%
  - Untrustworthy: 37%
  - Neutral: 25%
  - Trustworthy: 13%
  - Very Trustworthy: 3%
  - Don't Know: 2%

- Lebanese Army
  - Very Untrustworthy: 3%
  - Untrustworthy: 10%
  - Neutral: 46%
  - Trustworthy: 34%
  - Very Trustworthy: 2%

- Media
  - Very Untrustworthy: 12%
  - Untrustworthy: 39%
  - Neutral: 28%
  - Trustworthy: 19%
  - Very Trustworthy: 2%

- Municipality
  - Very Untrustworthy: 16%
  - Untrustworthy: 38%
  - Neutral: 22%
  - Trustworthy: 20%
  - Very Trustworthy: 4%

- Religious Institutions
  - Very Untrustworthy: 14%
  - Untrustworthy: 39%
  - Neutral: 22%
  - Trustworthy: 20%
  - Very Trustworthy: 4%
  - Don't Know: 1%
What are the TOP THREE policies/laws the government could enact that would have the most benefit? (TOTAL)

1. New electoral law - 36%
2. Return the embezzled funds from abroad - 21%
3. Policies to reduce inflation - 20%
4. Policies to stimulate job creation - 19%
5. Keeping the subsidies on basic commodities - 18%
6. Policies to directly support the most vulnerable families - 17%
7. Policies related to healthcare - 16%
8. Capital control law - 16%
9. Policies to retrieve your money from the bank - 12%
10. Policies to separate the religion from the state (Civil state) - 11%
11. Policies related to security - 10%
12. Removal of the subsidies - 10%
13. Enforcement of the forensic audit of all public institutions and ministries - 8%
14. Enforcement of the law on illicit enrichment - 8%
15. Policies related to the August 4th Port blast Investigation - 6%
16. Enforcement of the forensic audit of the central bank - 6%
17. Policies to stimulate access to basic commodities - 4%
18. Policies to maintain sectarian balance - 3%
TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS & POLICY PRIORITIES

When thinking about FIGHTING CORRUPTION, how likely are you to…? (TOTAL)

- Call or visit your local political party branch: 21% Extremely Unlikely, 51% Unlikely, 12% Neutral, 12% Likely, 4% Extremely Likely
- Talk to religious leaders: 17% Extremely Unlikely, 49% Unlikely, 14% Neutral, 15% Likely, 5% Extremely Likely
- Talk to friends/family: 2% Extremely Unlikely, 18% Unlikely, 4% Neutral, 44% Likely, 32% Extremely Likely
- Sign a petition: 7% Extremely Unlikely, 42% Unlikely, 10% Neutral, 27% Likely, 14% Extremely Likely
- Attend a town hall meeting: 12% Extremely Unlikely, 51% Unlikely, 11% Neutral, 19% Likely, 7% Extremely Likely
- Participate in a protest: 10% Extremely Unlikely, 40% Unlikely, 11% Neutral, 27% Likely, 12% Extremely Likely
- Call or visit your MP: 19% Extremely Unlikely, 51% Unlikely, 12% Neutral, 13% Likely, 5% Extremely Likely
When thinking about the ECONOMY, how likely are you to…? (TOTAL)

- Call or visit your local political party branch
  - Extremely Unlikely: 23%
  - Unlikely: 50%
  - Neutral: 12%
  - Likely: 11%
  - Extremely Likely: 3%

- Talk to religious leaders
  - Extremely Unlikely: 18%
  - Unlikely: 48%
  - Neutral: 14%
  - Likely: 14%
  - Extremely Likely: 5%

- Talk to friends/family
  - Extremely Unlikely: 3%
  - Unlikely: 18%
  - Neutral: 5%
  - Likely: 45%
  - Extremely Likely: 29%

- Sign a petition
  - Extremely Unlikely: 8%
  - Unlikely: 42%
  - Neutral: 10%
  - Likely: 28%
  - Extremely Likely: 12%

- Attend a town hall meeting
  - Extremely Unlikely: 13%
  - Unlikely: 50%
  - Neutral: 13%
  - Likely: 18%
  - Extremely Likely: 6%

- Participate in a protest
  - Extremely Unlikely: 11%
  - Unlikely: 41%
  - Neutral: 11%
  - Likely: 26%
  - Extremely Likely: 11%

- Call or visit your MP
  - Extremely Unlikely: 19%
  - Unlikely: 52%
  - Neutral: 12%
  - Likely: 12%
  - Extremely Likely: 5%