



منتدى الاستراتيجيات الأردني  
JORDAN STRATEGY FORUM

# The 2024 Parliamentary Elections: A Trigger Point for Positive Change

September 2024



Knowledge  
is power



## منتدى الاستراتيجيات الأردني JORDAN STRATEGY FORUM

The Jordan Strategy Forum (JSF) is a not-for-profit organization, which represents a group of Jordanian private sector companies that are active in corporate and social responsibility (CSR) and in promoting Jordan's economic growth. JSF's members are active private sector institutions, who demonstrate a genuine will to be part of a dialogue on economic and social issues that concern Jordanian citizens. The Jordan Strategy Forum promotes a strong Jordanian private sector that is profitable, employs Jordanians, pays taxes and supports comprehensive economic growth in Jordan.

The JSF also offers a rare opportunity and space for the private sector to have evidence-based debate with the public sector and decision-makers with the aim to increase awareness, strengthening the future of the Jordanian economy and applying best practices.

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### To evaluate the study



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## Introduction

The 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2024 parliamentary elections in Jordan are the first after the 2022 constitutional amendments and the adoption of the new political party laws. The changes were initiated by the Royal Committee to Modernize the Political System, which was established by the His Majesty King Abdullah II in June 2021.

The new 2022 electoral law allows two votes for each voter. The first vote goes to individuals who compete for 97 seats in 18 local districts. The second vote goes for “political parties” which compete for 41 seats in the national electoral district. The objective of this change is to increase the role of political parties in the House of Representatives. Indeed, the key element of the “political modernization process” is the formation of “parliamentary governments in the future”.

A political party is simply an organized group of individuals who share similar political ideologies, goals, and values. Political parties aim to represent the interests of their supporters, form governments, create laws, and shape public policies based on their platforms. The objective of increasing the role of political parties, is important for several reasons:

1. Party Members of Parliament have more influence and access to resources than individual / independent members of parliament. Being part of a larger group, they can rely on party resources for support, funding, and research.
2. Party Members of Parliament are more effective in passing legislation, as they can rely on party discipline to ensure a unified vote.
3. Party Members of Parliament work within a platform which provides consistency in policymaking. This can lead to more coherent and comprehensive legislation.
4. Independent Members of Parliament typically focus on local issues and act purely in the interests of their constituents.

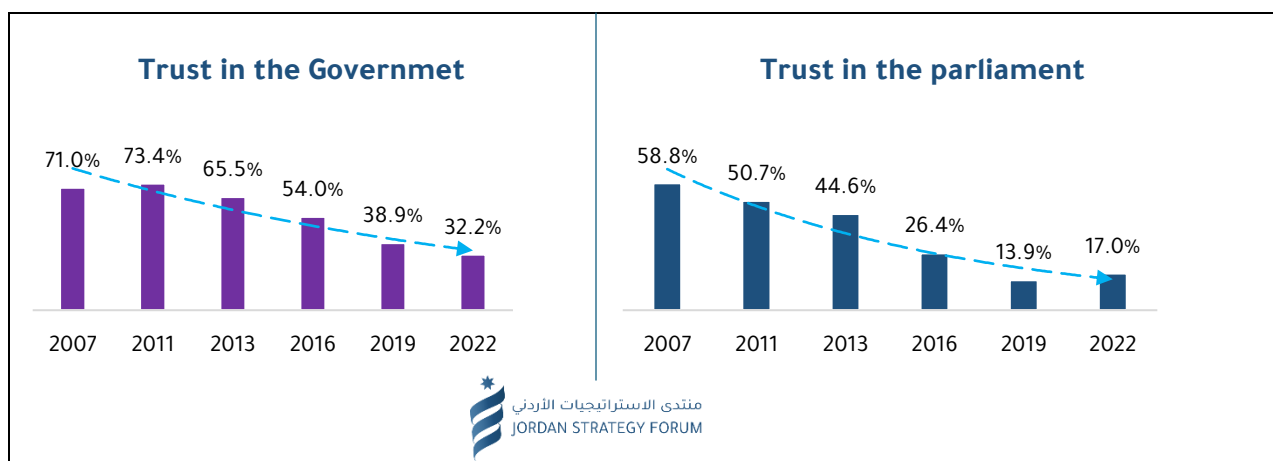
## A Look at the Results of the 2024 Jordanian Parliamentary Elections:

The results of the 2024 parliamentary elections showed actual indicators about the political transformation taking place in Jordan, and these results can be summarized as follows:

1. Ten of the 36 political parties won the 41 seats allocated to the national constituency.
2. In total, the 10 political parties won 63 of the 97 seats allocated to local lists.
3. There was a distinguished presence of women in the 2024 elections, as they won 27 seats in the 20<sup>th</sup> parliament. In addition, 9 of the winners belonged to party lists, while half of the 18 women who won the seats reserved for women also belonged to parties.
4. It is likely that among the 34 independent MPs of local constituencies in the House have ideologies or goals shared with the existing parties represented in the House of Representatives.

To maximize the possibility of realizing parliamentary governments in the future, the present party members, as well as the “individual” members of parliament, must consider the 2024 Parliamentary Election results as a “Trigger Point for Positive Change”.

1. They hold seats in parliament following the first parliamentary elections conducted after the 2022 constitutional amendments and the implementation of new election and political party laws.
2. They have the responsibility to assess Jordan’s economic challenges, which include modest growth rates, high unemployment, fiscal deficits, rising public debt, poverty, and inequality.
3. Members of parliament are responsible to cooperate with each other for the common good. Indeed, the 10 political parties that won the 41 seats which are allocated in the national constituency, have common economic objectives, represented by the following:
  - Attracting investments.
  - Building a strong and resilient economy.
  - Improve health, education, transportation, housing and the environment.
  - Focus on small and medium-sized enterprises.
  - Achieving social justice.
  - Achieving sustainable development.
  - Enhance productivity and sustainability in the national economy.
4. Strong interparty alliances in the Jordanian parliament of 2024 could be a strong steppingstone toward the formation of future parliamentary governments.
5. Collaborative efforts between the 2024 parliament and the government for the common good will help restore Jordanians’ confidence in both institutions, a trust that has been steadily declining since 2007 (Arab Barometer Survey).



Source: Arab Barometer, Jordan Surveys, 2007-2022

Building on this, the OECD affirms the following points on the value of trust in the political system:

- A. "Trust in institutions is important for the success of many government policies, programs and regulations that depend on cooperation and compliance of citizens"
- B. "Trust in government institutions could help to increase confidence in the economy by facilitating economic decisions, such as on investment and consumption that foster economic growth"

### **What is expected of the twentieth parliament regarding the economy?**

There is no doubt that the twentieth House of Representatives will have a pivotal role in economic affairs, especially considering the regional repercussions and turmoil that have broadly affected the Jordanian economy, particularly domestic and foreign investment in Jordan.

In this context, the importance of the House of Representatives emerges in discussing governments' proposed economic programs, suggesting appropriate amendments, monitoring government performance to ensure the implementation of these programs in accordance with the vision of economic modernization, and following up on their continuity during the upcoming periods.

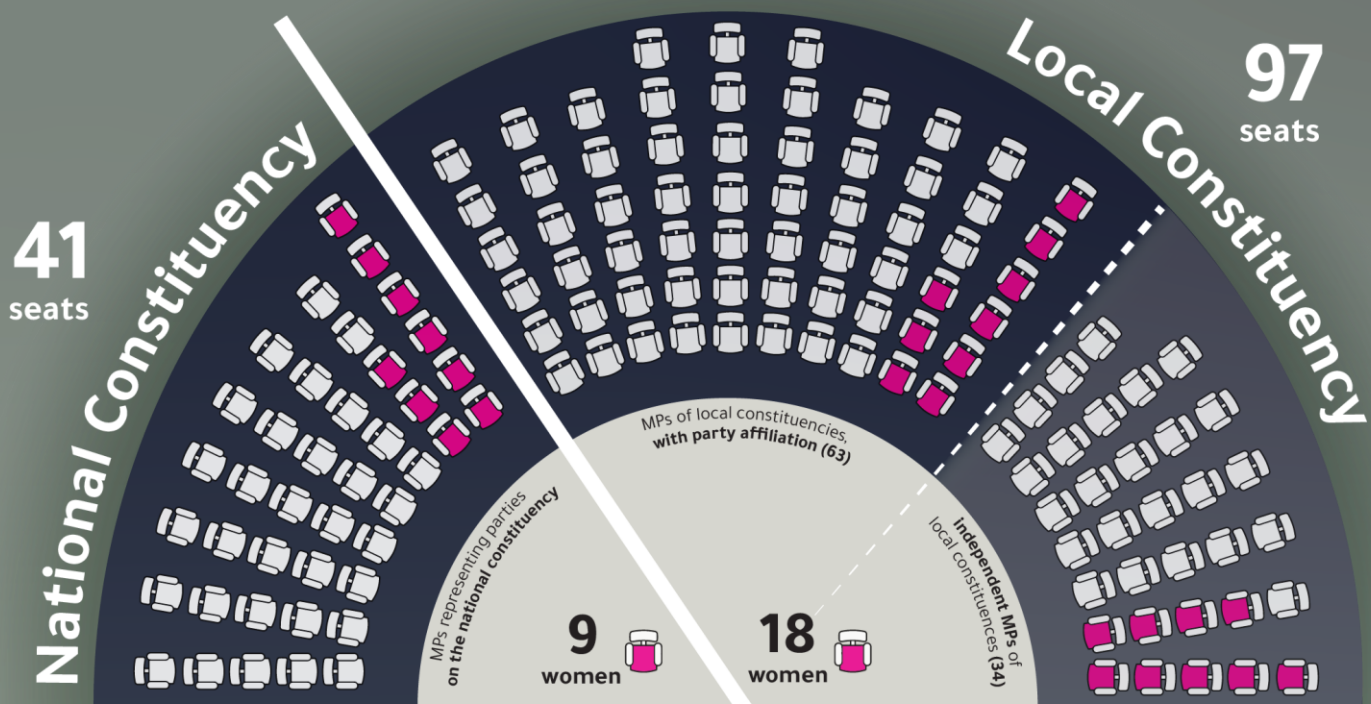
In light of the economic and social challenges facing Jordan, the 2024 parliament is expected to address the following economic issues:

1. Assess the government's performance concerning the current state of public finances to adopt a more efficient, sustainable, and transparent fiscal policy.
2. Review the government's performance regarding public-private partnership projects, to accelerate the implementation of some key and essential projects.
3. Review the government's performance in the energy sector and encourage it to adopt a clear vision along with bold reforms in this vital economic driver
4. Conduct a thorough review and discussion with the government and relevant stakeholders regarding the implementation of the initiatives outlined in the Economic Modernization Vision, specifically pertaining to the Jordanian capital market within the financial services sector.

In addition, members of parliament should be served by professional specialist teams to support them in addressing specialized economic matters and concerns.

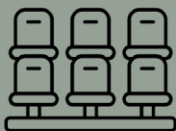
If the current parliament successfully fulfills its role, it will enhance public confidence in the parliament, which is crucial for the stability of the democratic system. In turn, this will promote

good governance, encourage political participation, ensure oversight and accountability of government performance, and improve the quality of policies and legislation.



**10**/  
**36**

Ten of the 36 political parties won the 41 seats allocated to the national constituency



**63**/  
**97**

In total, the 10 political parties won 63 of the 97 seats allocated to local lists



**27**/  
**138**

Women had a strong presence in the 2024 elections, **winning 27 seats** in the 20th parliament. Nine came from party lists, and 18 women who won the seats reserved for women also belonged to parties

## The 2024 Parliament is Expected to Address the Following Economic Issues:



### **Current State of Public Finances**

Assess the government's performance to adopt a more efficient, sustainable, and transparent fiscal policy.



### **Public-Private Partnership Projects**

Review the government's performance to accelerate the implementation of some key and essential projects.



### **Energy Sector**

Review the government's performance to adopt a clear vision along with bold reforms in this vital economic driver.



### **Implementation of the Initiatives Outlined in the Economic Modernization Vision**

Conduct a thorough review and discussion with the government and stakeholders on the initiatives. Focus on those related to the Jordanian capital market in the financial services sector.

**If the current parliament effectively performs its role, it will enhance public trust in the parliament** which is crucial for the stability of the democratic system. In turn, this will promote good governance, encourage political participation, ensure oversight and accountability of government performance, and improve the quality of policies and legislation.





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