

Thabat Center for Research and Opinion Polling

Founded in 2024, the Thabat Center is an independent research institution dedicated to public policy studies and general consulting. Its mission is to enhance the quality of research, surveys, data collection, representative sampling methodologies, data analysis, and the production of reports and academic papers. The center collaborates with experts across various disciplines to ensure the highest standards of accuracy and credibility.

Thabat Center conducts a wide range of research activities, including applied studies related to current Palestinian policies, opinion polls assessing the political, social, and economic conditions within Palestinian society, and institutional and program evaluations. Additionally, it organizes conferences, lectures, and briefings on pressing issues, along with other related initiatives.

The center is committed to objectivity and scientific integrity, investing in experts to oversee political and governance research, field studies, and work with seasoned researchers in the field.

**For more information or inquiries about the survey and its results, please contact
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Thabat for Research and Surveys

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Public Opinion Poll Results No.(1)

A year after the aggression on Gaza, more than half of the Palestinian public (55%) favors the two-state solution over other alternatives, with support rising to 59% in the Gaza Strip. This option is preferred by a significant majority of Fatah supporters (69%) and Hamas supporters (57%), compared to 48% among supporters of other factions. In the Gaza Strip, support for Fatah and Hamas is roughly equal, while Hamas holds an advantage in the West Bank. Additionally, if presidential elections were held today, Marwan Barghouti, representing Fatah, would surpass Yahya Sinwar from Hamas in popularity. Three-quarters of Fatah supporters indicate they would vote for Barghouti if he were the party's candidate. In contrast, a substantial majority (85%) of Hamas supporters would back Sinwar if he were the candidate for Hamas.

October 2024

The Thabat Center for Research and Opinion Polling conducted a survey of Palestinian public opinion in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in September 2024. Leading up to the survey, the war in Gaza persisted, and ceasefire negotiations remained stalled. In response to Israel's assassination of Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, Hamas appointed Yahya Sinwar as its new leader. Meanwhile, Palestinian factions announced the Beijing Declaration to foster internal unity, and President Mahmoud Abbas issued a decree to prepare for his visit to Gaza, during which he addressed the United Nations General Assembly.

At the same time, the Israeli government executed targeted assassinations of political and military leaders in the southern suburbs of Beirut, and hostilities in southern Lebanon intensified compared to previous months. In the West Bank, confrontations between the Israeli military and armed Palestinian groups escalated, particularly in the northern regions. Restrictions on Palestinian movement continued, with the Israeli army closing access to most towns and villages. Violence perpetrated by settlers against Palestinian communities in unprotected areas of zones B and C also persisted.

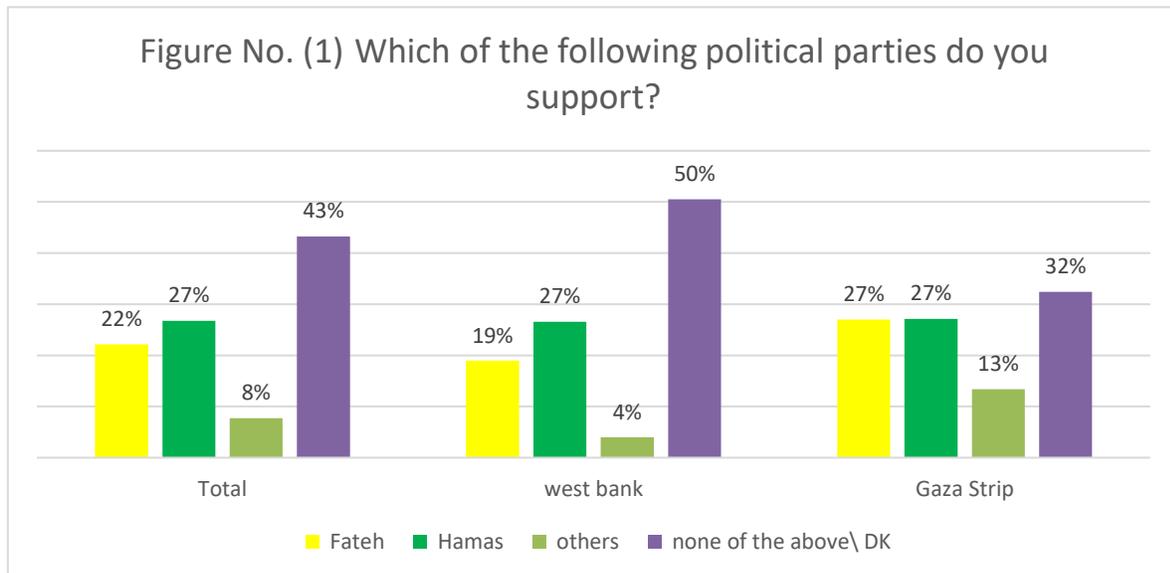
The survey included a sample of 1,400 individuals, with 800 respondents from the West Bank (across 50 residential sites) and 600 from the Gaza Strip (across 30 locations). Interviews in Gaza were conducted in specific areas free from daily conflict, including Khan Yunis, central Gaza, and all refugee centers. However, northern Gaza and other conflict-affected areas, especially in eastern Rafah, were excluded from the survey.

1- Power Balance:

The Survey focused on the political power balance in Palestine under the rapidly changing circumstances after October 7, and the results shows:

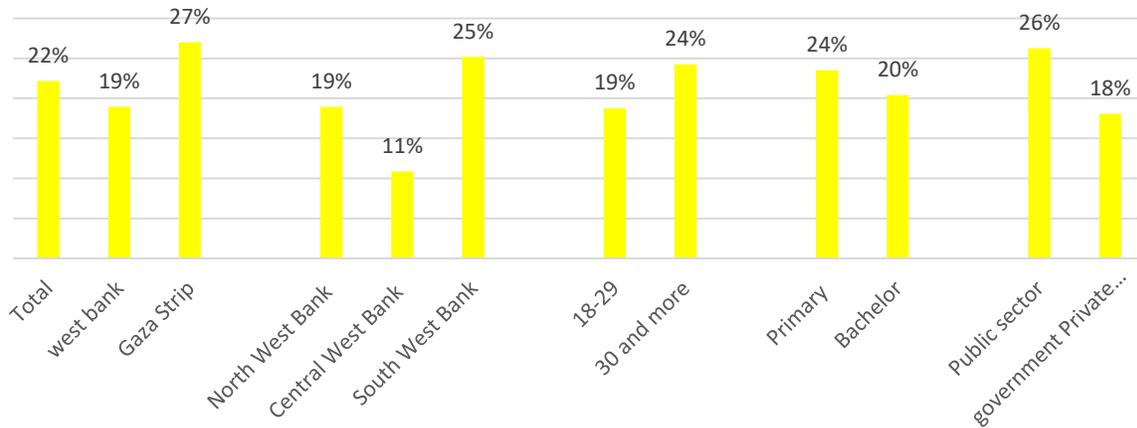
- **Political Support for Palestinian Factions:**

We conducted a survey asking the public which political party they support, providing a comprehensive list of all Palestinian factions and parties. The results reveal that Hamas holds the majority of support, with 27% of respondents expressing their backing for the movement, while 22% support Fatah. Other Palestinian political factions collectively received only 8%, with each faction attracting less than 2% support. Notably, 32% of respondents indicated that they do not support any party, and 11% opted not to share their views. For more details, please refer to the chart below.



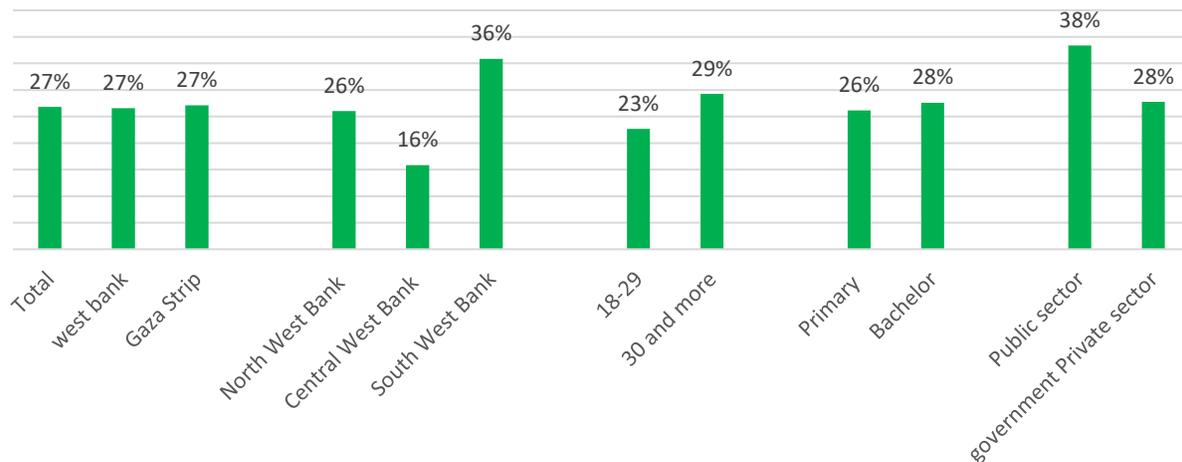
Support for Fatah is notably higher in the Gaza Strip at 27%, compared to just 19% in the West Bank. Among different educational backgrounds, those with less education show greater support at 24%, while support among more educated individuals is at 20%. Additionally, government employees exhibit stronger support for Fatah at 26%, compared to 18% among private sector workers. Regionally within the West Bank, support for Fatah varies significantly, with 25% in the southern areas, 11% in the central region, and 19% in the northern region. For more details, please refer to the chart below.

Figure (2) Support for the Fatah movement according to selected variables



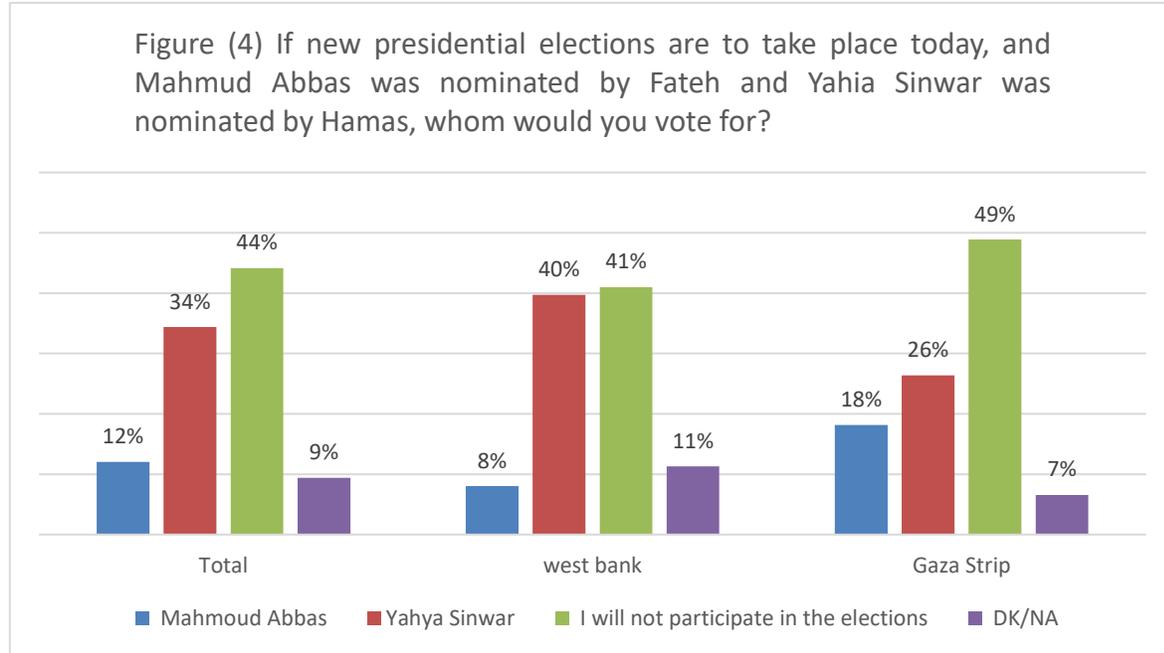
Support for Hamas is particularly high in the southern West Bank, where it stands at 36%, in contrast to 16% in the central region and 26% in the north. This support also correlates with age, as 29% of older individuals express support for Hamas compared to 23% of younger people. Among government employees, support rises to 38%, while it reaches 28% among those in the private sector. For additional details, please see the chart below.

Figure (3) Support for Hamas according to selected variables



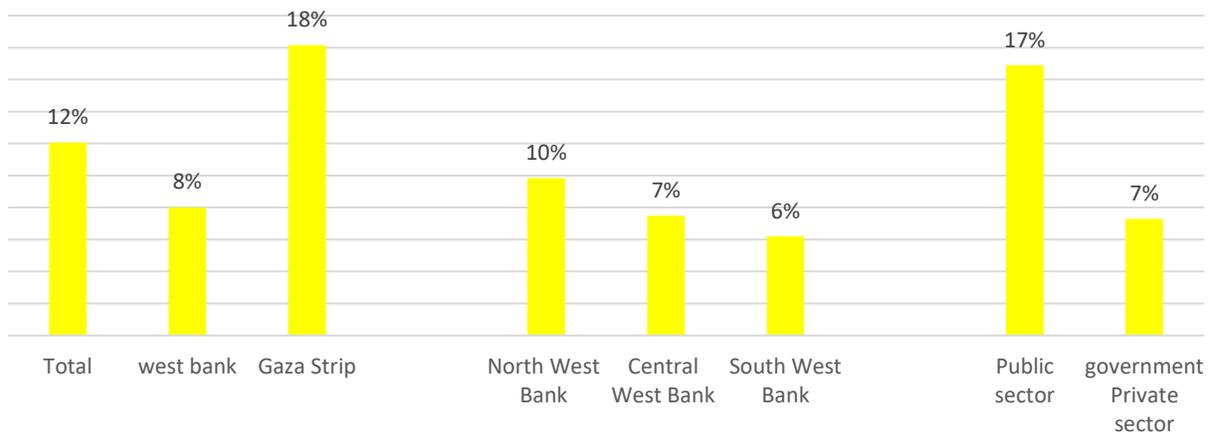
- **Presidential elections in which Mahmoud Abbas is running for the Fatah Movement and Yahya Sinwar for the Hamas Movement:**

If presidential elections were held today with Mahmoud Abbas representing Fatah and Yahya Sinwar representing Hamas, 44% of the public would choose not to participate. In this scenario, Mahmoud Abbas would garner only 12% of the votes, while Yahya Sinwar would secure 34%. In the West Bank, Sinwar's lead becomes more pronounced, with 40% support compared to just 8% for Abbas. Conversely, in the Gaza Strip, Abbas would receive 18% of the votes, while Sinwar would attain 26%. For more details, please look at the chart below.



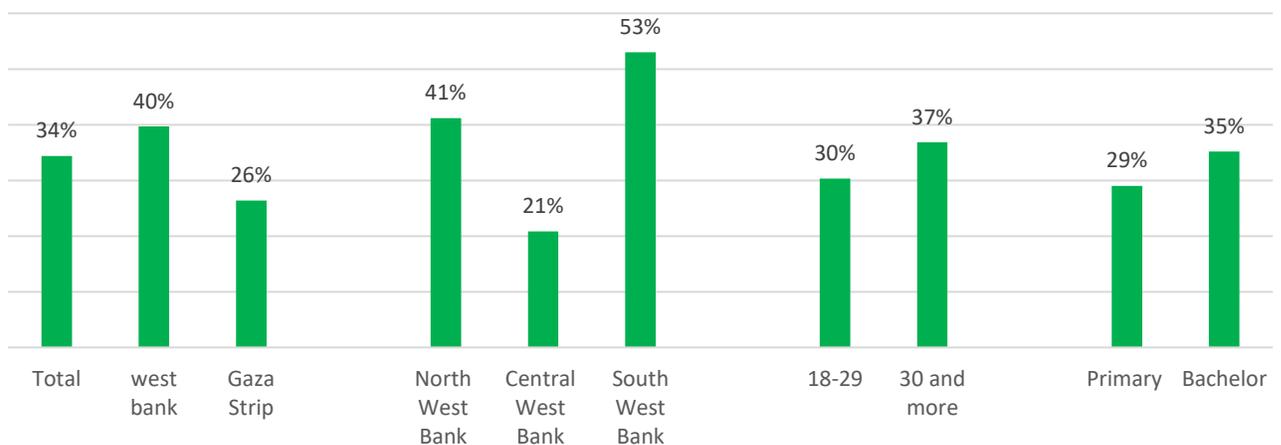
Mahmoud Abbas's approval rating is 18% in the Gaza Strip, compared to only 8% in the West Bank. His support is also notably higher among government employees, where it reaches 17%, while it drops to 7% among those working in the private sector. Within the West Bank, his popularity is particularly strong in the northern regions, where it stands at 10%, compared to just 6% in the central areas. For further details, please refer to the chart below.

Figure (5) Voting for Mahmoud Abbas in the presidential elections in which he competes with Sinwar according to selected variables

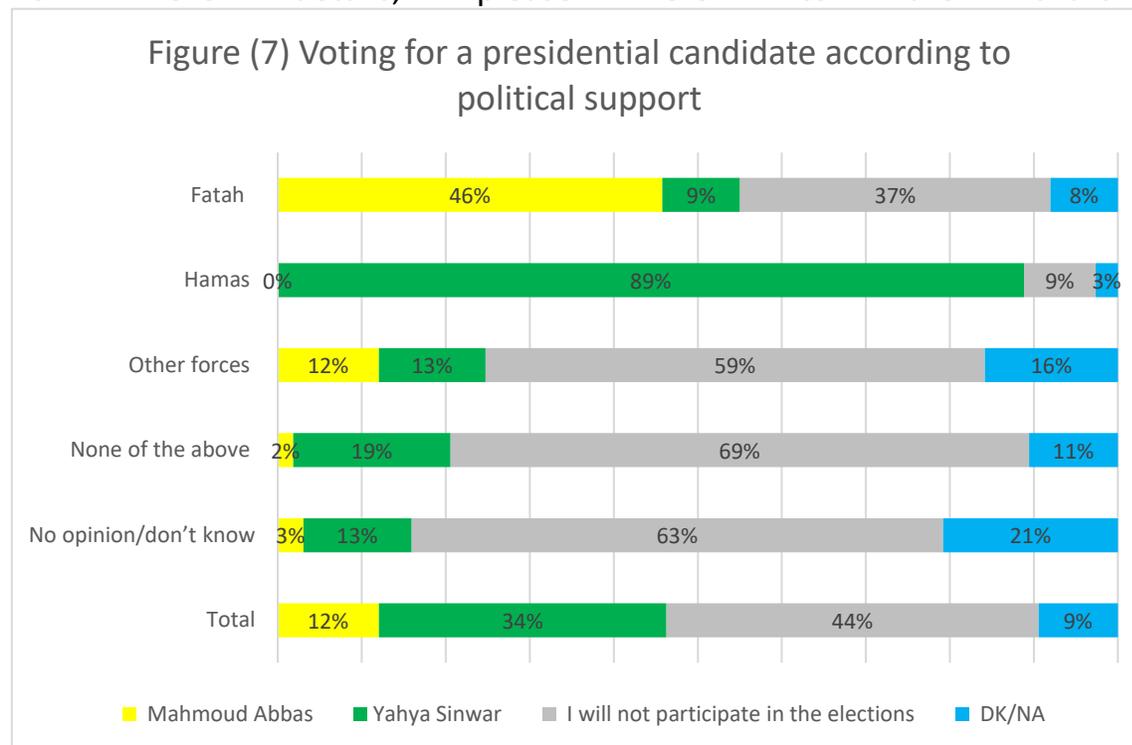


Yahya al-Senwar enjoys significant popularity in the West Bank, securing 40% of the votes compared to 26% in the Gaza Strip. His support is particularly strong among older demographics, with 37% of individuals aged 30 and above backing him, while he receives 30% among those under 30. Additionally, his appeal rises to 35% among individuals with bachelor's degrees, compared to 29% among those with lower educational qualifications. In the West Bank, al-Senwar's popularity peaks in the southern regions, where it reaches 53%, and 41% in the north, while it drops to just 21% in the central areas. For more details, please see the chart below.

Figure (6) Voting for Yahya Sinwar in the presidential elections in which he competes with Mahmoud Abbas according to selected variables



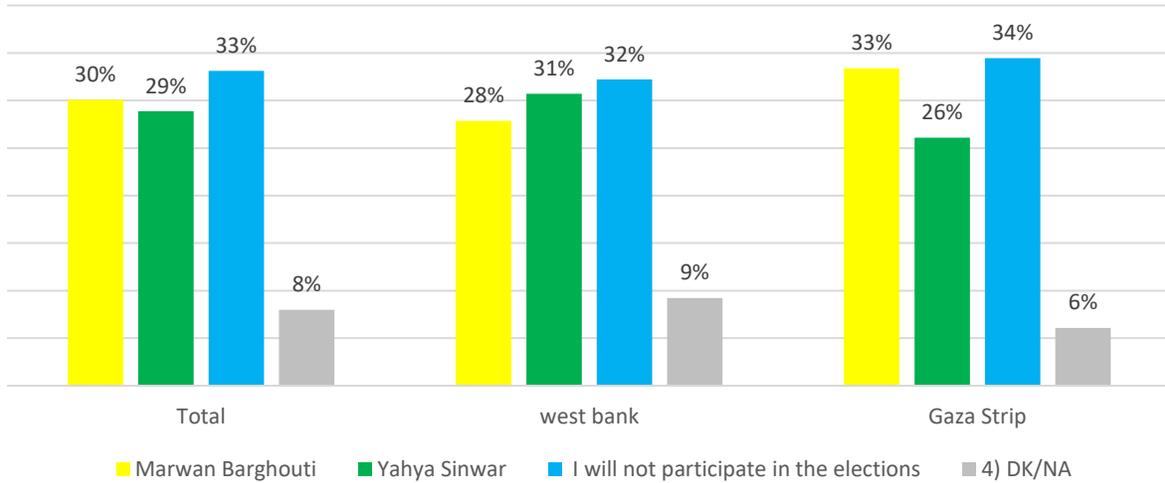
Mahmoud Abbas, representing Fatah, receives only 46% of the votes from Fatah supporters, while 9% opt for Yahya al-Senwar. Additionally, 37% of Fatah supporters indicate they will not participate in the election, and 8% do not express an opinion. In contrast, Yahya al-Senwar commands strong support among Hamas supporters, securing 89% of their votes, with 9% choosing not to participate and 3% remaining undecided. Notably, Mahmoud Abbas does not receive any votes from Hamas supporters. Overall, support for Hamas is at 27%, while support for Fatah is at 22%. For more details, please refer to the chart below.



- Presidential elections featuring Marwan Barghouti as the candidate for Fatah and Yahya al-Senwar for Hamas:**

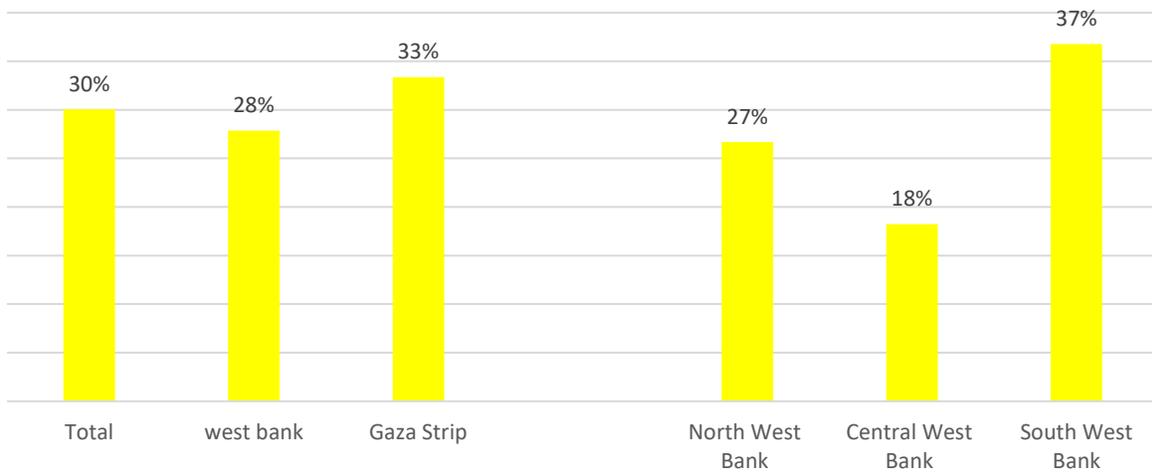
If presidential elections were held today, featuring Marwan Barghouti from Fatah and Yahya al-Senwar from Hamas, 33% of the public would opt not to participate. Marwan Barghouti would receive 30% of the votes, while Yahya al-Senwar would secure 29%. In the West Bank, al-Senwar's support increases to 31%, compared to 28% for Barghouti. Conversely, in Gaza, Barghouti's popularity rises to 33%, while al-Senwar's falls to 26%. For more details, refer to the chart below.

Figure (8) And what if the competition was between Marwan Barghouti from Fatah and Yahia Sinwar from Hamas, to whom would you vote?

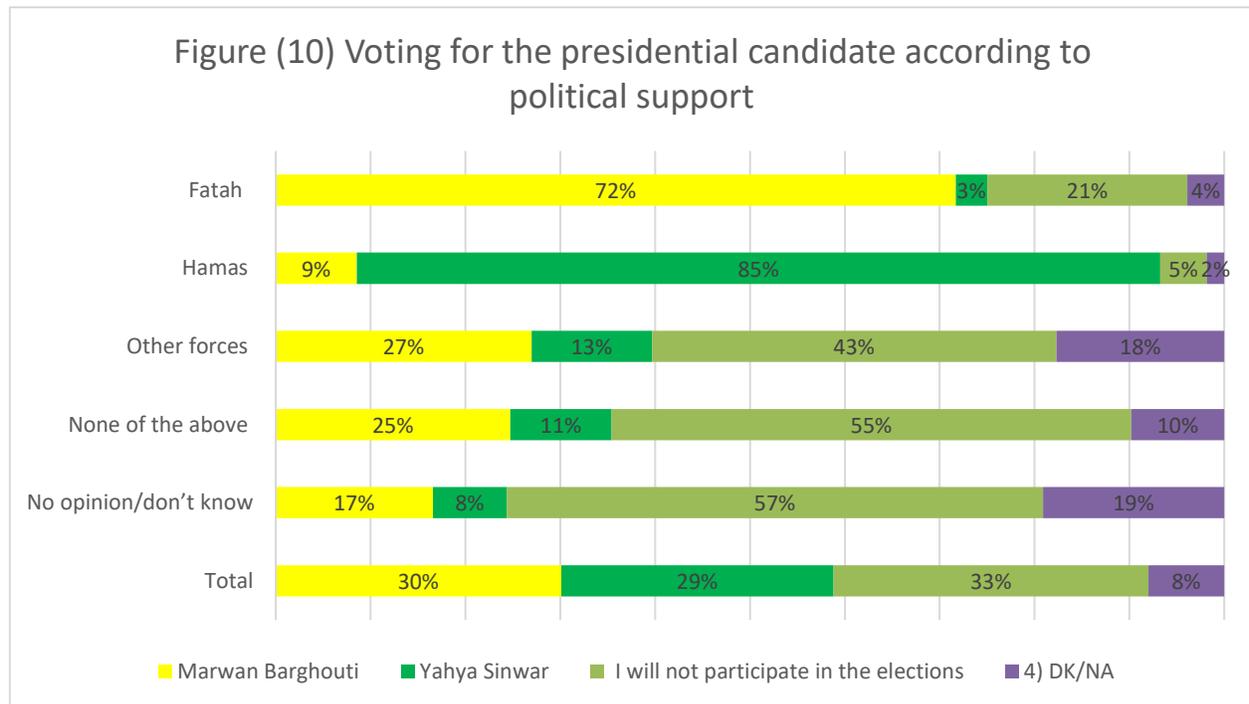


The popularity of Marwan Barghouti in the Gaza Strip is 33%, compared to 28% in the West Bank. In the West Bank, his popularity is higher in the southern regions at 37%, compared to 18% in the central West Bank. For further details, please refer to the figure below.

Figure (9) Voting for Marwan Barghouti in the presidential elections in which he competes with Sinwar according to selected variables



Marwan Barghouti, the Fatah candidate, secures 72% of the votes from Fatah supporters, while 3% opt for Yahya Sinwar. Additionally, 21% plan to abstain from voting, and 4% have not expressed their opinions. In contrast, Yahya Sinwar receives 85% of the votes from Hamas supporters, with 9% going to Marwan Barghouti, 5% choosing not to participate, and 2% undecided. It's important to note that support for Hamas is at 27%, while support for Fatah is at 22%. For further details, please refer to the figure below.

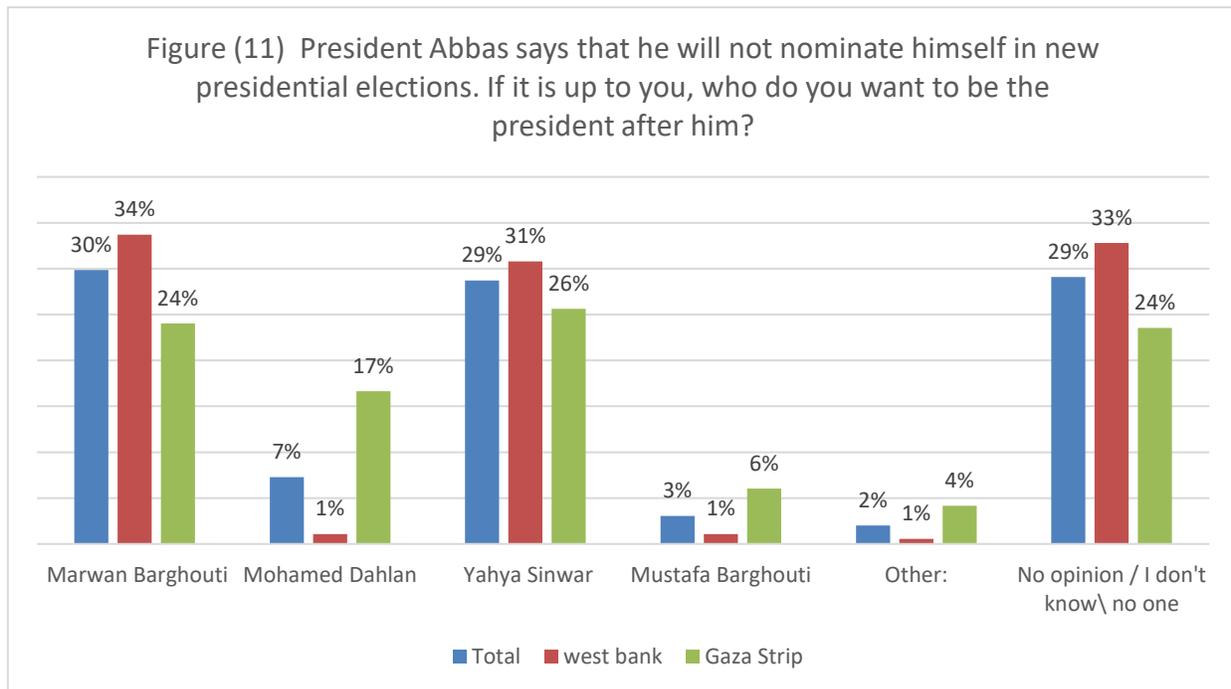


- Preference for the Next President in the Event Mahmoud Abbas Does Not Run:**

We surveyed the public about their preferred candidate for president in the event that Mahmoud Abbas does not run. Respondents were given a list of candidates previously mentioned in an open-ended question by a polling center, including Marwan Barghouti, Muhammad Dahlan, Yahya Sinwar, and Mustafa Barghouti.

The results show a close contest between Marwan Barghouti and Yahya Sinwar, with Marwan receiving 30% of the votes and Sinwar closely trailing at 29%. Muhammad Dahlan captures 7%, while Mustafa Barghouti accounts for 3%.

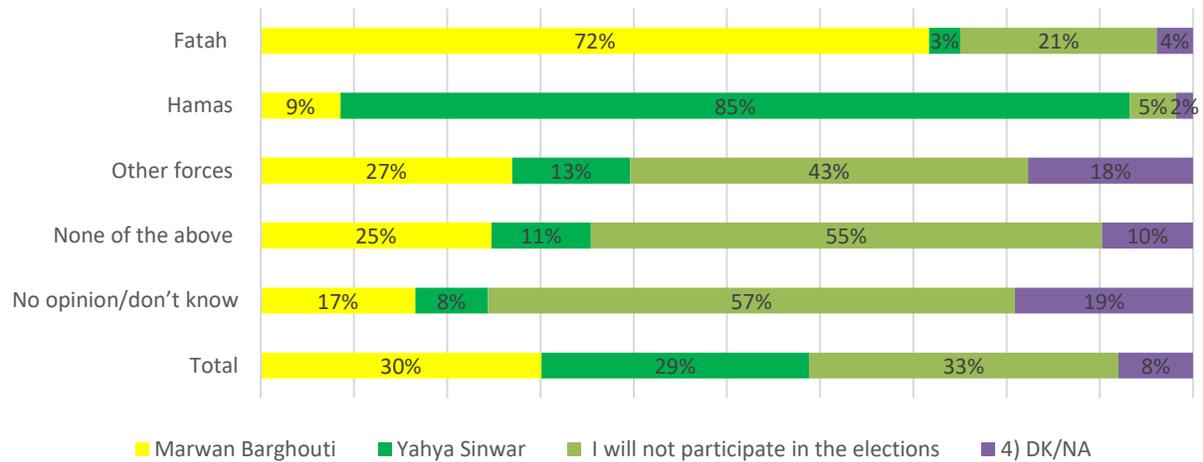
Marwan's popularity is notably higher in the West Bank, where he reaches 34%, but drops to 24% in the Gaza Strip. Similarly, Yahya Sinwar sees an increase to 31% in the West Bank, while his support in Gaza falls to 26%. It seems that Muhammad Dahlan's candidacy has drawn votes away from both Sinwar and Barghouti in Gaza, where he receives 17% of the votes, compared to just 1% in the West Bank. Mustafa Barghouti secures 6% in Gaza and 1% in the West Bank. For further details, please refer to the figure below.



In a scenario featuring four candidates, Marwan Barghouti commands 64% of the votes from Fatah supporters, while Yahya Sinwar receives 3% and Muhammad Dahlan gets 20%. Conversely, Yahya Sinwar captures a significant 85% of the votes from Hamas supporters, with 11% going to Marwan Barghouti.

Among supporters of other factions, both Muhammad Dahlan and Yahya Sinwar each secure 11%, while Mustafa Barghouti garners 18%, and Marwan Barghouti achieves 21%. For further details, please refer to the figure below.

Figure (12) Voting for a presidential candidate according to political support

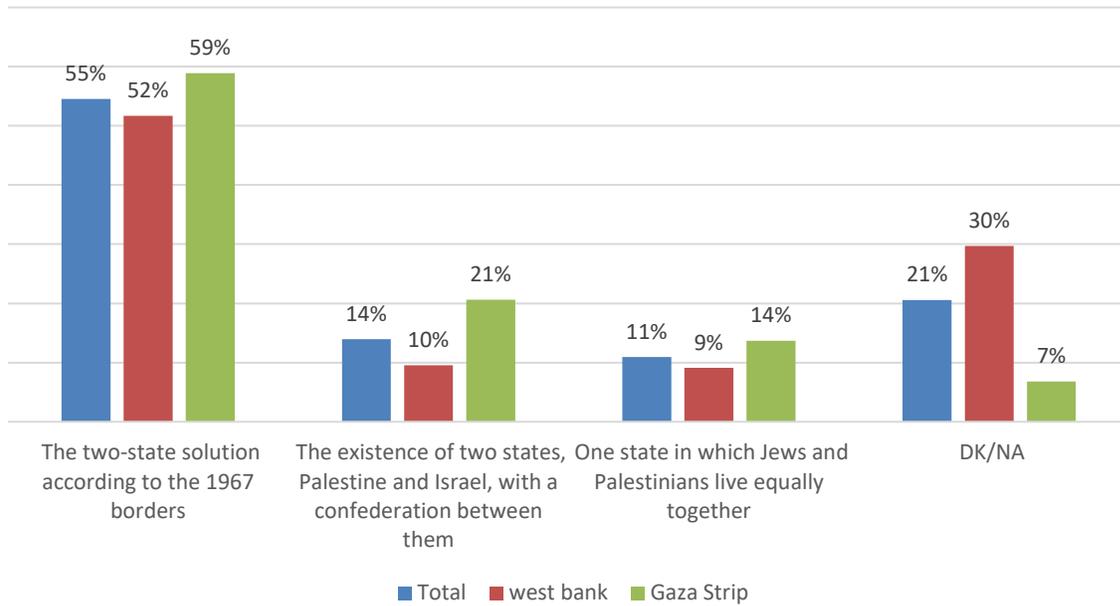


2- The solution preferred by the Palestinians to end the conflict with Israel:

We asked the public about their preferred solution to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, presenting three options: 1) the two-state solution based on the 1967 borders, 2) the establishment of two states—Palestine and Israel—within a confederal framework, and 3) a single state where Palestinians and Jews coexist as equals.

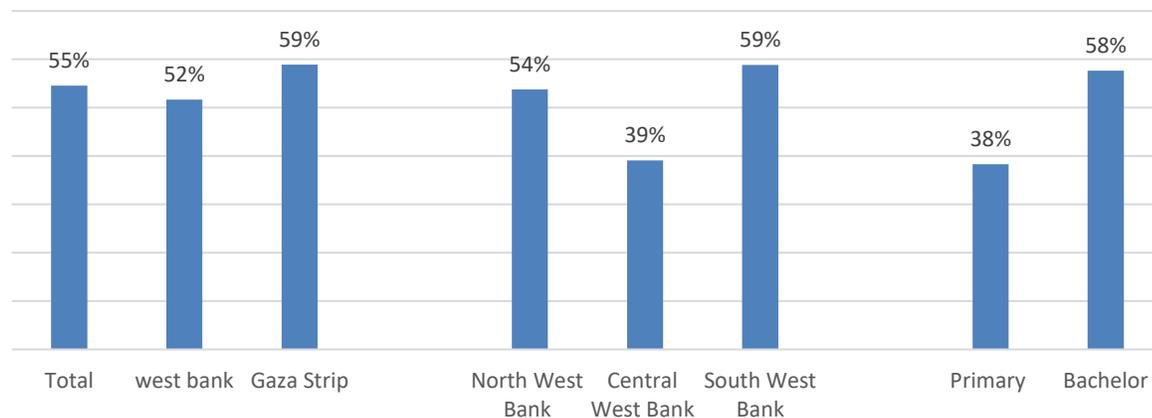
The results reveal that a majority, 55%, favor the two-state solution. The confederal option receives just 14%, while the one-state solution attracts 11%. For more details, please refer to the figure below.

Figure (13) In light of the current war, what solution do you prefer to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict?



Support for the two-state solution is notably higher in the Gaza Strip at 59%, compared to 52% in the West Bank. Among those with a bachelor's degree, support rises to 58%, while it drops to 38% for individuals with only a primary education. In the West Bank, support varies significantly by region, with 59% in the southern areas compared to just 39% in the central regions. For more details, please refer to the figure below.

Figure (14) Preference for the two-state solution according to selected variables



The two-state solution also receives majority support from Fatah supporters, at 69%, and Hamas supporters, at 57%. In contrast, support falls to 48% among those who back other factions, 46% among individuals who do not support any Palestinian group, and 47% among those who are undecided.

Notably, 27% of the public identifies as Hamas supporters, while 22% support Fatah. Additionally, 8% back other factions, 32% do not align with any party, and 11% have not expressed an opinion. For further details, please refer to the figure below.

Figure (15) The preferred solution to end the Palestinian-Israeli conflict according to political support

