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NEW POLL CLARIFIES POSITION OF AFGHAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES:

3,200 Afghans polled on voting intentions for the April elections

ATR today released *'Polling of the Afghanistan Presidential Elections March 2014'* a survey of voting intentions in the upcoming presidential elections on April 5, 2014. The poll's sample was comprised of 3,222 respondents from all of Afghanistan's 34 provinces, interviewed by phone between March 19th – 26th, ten days before the official election date.

'Taking into account the unique challenges of the Afghan context and the sensitivity of the elections, phone surveys are the methodology best suited to allow maximum access and maximum anonymity to allow respondents the confidence to speak freely' said Anne Jasim-Falher, ATR's founder and Managing Director.

Key findings from the results revealed the following:

- **Ashraf Ghani-Ahmadzai** is the most preferred candidate nationwide with **27.1%** of respondents indicating him as their first choice for the presidency
- **Abdullah Abdullah** is in second position with **24.6%** of respondents indicating him as their preferred candidate
- **Zalmay Rassoul** is in third position with **8.0%** of respondents indicating him as their preferred candidate
- Abdul Rab Rassoul Sayyaf is at 2.7% while Gul Agha Sherzai is at 2.3%, while all other candidates scored under 0.5%
- Ashraf Ghani-Ahmadzai is the strongest in the East (59.9%), whereas he only gets 10.4% in the West.
- Abdullah Abdullah scores the highest in the West* (41.1%) and the North (32.5%)
- Most of Zalmay Rassoul's support comes from the South (16.7%)
- Finally, 27.9% of voters are still undecided and 6.7% responded "none of these". Whether these 6.7% will vote in the end is open to question.

* A description of the six regions is as follows :

North: Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz, Baghlan, Samangan, Sar-i-Pul, Jawzjan, Balkh and Faryab

West: Herat, Badghis, Farah, Nimroz and Ghor

East : Paktya, Paktika, Khost, Laghman, Nangarhar, Kunar and Nuristan

South : Helmand, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Zabul and Ghazni

Central : Kabul, Wardak, Logar, Parwan, Kapisa, Panjsher, Bamyan, Daikundi

Anne Jasim-Falher explains: *'the study asked respondents to indicate their preferred candidate and not if they intended to vote or not. In addition respondents were given the option of reporting that they were still undecided. Results thus give an indication of general voting preferences and cannot be used to predict voter turnout, or the overall results on Election Day'*.

Download the complete report [here](#).

ABOUT THE SURVEY

'Typical poll sizes in developed countries are around 2,200. In this polling we've engaged with more than 3,200 respondents to give a margin of error of less than one percent', said Anne Jasim-Falher of the survey's sample.

In order to ensure that the sample was representative of all the population of Afghanistan, a minimum of 384 respondents were interviewed in six regions: North, West, East, South, Central and Kabul.

For any poll in Afghanistan, there are formidable challenges in accessing women, frequently this results in this group having a diminished voice. To overcome this, all surveyors were women, and used techniques such as asking a male respondent if there were any female members of their family in the vicinity who would be willing to respond to the survey. In this case, only the female member of the household would be interviewed.

The margin of error for the overall sample (a measure of the approximation in the results inherent when using a representative sample) is **less than 2%**, for the total national results. The confidence level for the poll is 95%, meaning that there is a 95% probability that the results are consistent with the results that would be obtained should the survey be conducted with the entire target population. The margin of error is of course greater where we tried to measure and disaggregate subgroups, e.g. women and men when considered by themselves. However, all samples are of an adequate size to allow for statistically significant conclusions to be drawn from subgroup analysis.

Download the complete survey methodology [here](#).

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