

Iranian Elections

By [Stephen Lendman](#)

Global Research, February 23, 2020

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [History](#)

On Friday, Iranians turned out in large numbers to select members of parliament, its Majlis, and seven members of its 88-member Assembly of Experts.

Responsible for selecting Iran's Supreme Leader, its members serve 8-year terms. Meeting twice annually, it's comprised of a leadership council and six committees.

Held every four years, at stake are 290 seats in parliament, candidates aged-30 to 75 eligible to run.

Around 58 million Iranians are eligible to vote, citizens aged-18 or older.

Candidates from 208 constituencies ran for office, Tehran the largest.

Iranian elections are open, free and fair, shaming the US money-controlled duopoly system — one-party rule with two right wings.

The Guardian Council vets political aspirants to protect and preserve Iran's Islamic character and national sovereignty from hostile imperial efforts to change things.

According to Iran's **Interior Minister Abdol-Reza Rahmani-Fazli**, over 91% of political aspirants were approved by the Guardian Council to run for parliament on Friday — 7,148 candidates for 290 seats.

In Tehran, 1,453 candidates contested for 30 seats. No limitation exists on how often incumbents and former incumbents can seek reelection.

Around 85% of voting is electronic. Principalists (conservatives) vied with Reformists for parliamentary seats.

Various parties represented them, along with other independent parties. Elements tied to US imperial interests, wanting pro-Western (tyrannical) Pahlavi-style rule restored operate in exile.

When last held, Reformists gained control of parliament with moderate candidates by a 137 - 120-seat majority over Principalists.

Due to large numbers turning out Friday to vote, 54,611 polling stations scheduled to close at 6PM stayed open to 10PM, as late as midnight where needed to accommodate voters.

On Tuesday, **Ayatollah Khamenei** called Iranian elections "a source of strengthening the country," adding:

“Look at how US propaganda seeks to separate the people from the Islamic system. They create think tanks to plot this.”

“They seek to distance the Iranian youth from the Islamic system, but they won’t succeed.”

“Enemies and friends are watching. Enemies want to see the result of these economic problems, the Westerners’ deceit in their promises to us, and the US pressures on the people.”

“Our friends watch worriedly, but we always tell them not to worry. The Iranian nation knows what it’s doing.”

“Taking part in the elections nullifies many of the vicious plots of the US and the Zionist regime against Iran.”

“These elections repel the schemes and ploys of the enemies of Iran.”

“Iran should become stronger. This frustrates the enemy. One manifestation of strength is having a strong Majlis.”

“The more participation there is in the election, the stronger the Majlis will be. This is one factor for strengthening the Majlis.”

Iranian **First Vice-President Eshaq Jahangiri** called Friday’s large turnout a testimony to Iranian rejection of hostile US propaganda.

Tabulating Friday’s ballots continues, results expected to be announced Sunday.

According to Press TV, partial results show Principalists ahead, including a clear lead in Tehran.

Interior Ministry spokesman **Esmail Mousavin** said most constituency results will be announced on Saturday, adding:

“In certain constituencies, however, releasing results will take until Sunday due to the number of candidates.”

Winning a minimum of 20% of votes cast in each constituency is required to gain a seat in parliament.

A follow-up election is held for undecided constituencies.

Based on what’s known so far, Principalists appear heading for a parliamentary majority.

A Final Comment

Timed to be announced on election day, the Trump regime imposed illegal sanctions on “five senior” Iranian officials.

According to DJT’s envoy for regime change in Iran Brian Hook, targeted individuals “denied the Iranian people free and fair parliamentary elections” — how the US political system operates, not the Islamic Republic’s.

Friday's action was symbolic, part of US war on Iran by other means.

Ongoing for over 40 years, it's part of what US imperialism is all about, a scourge threatening everyone everywhere.

*

Note to readers: please click the share buttons below. Forward this article to your email lists. Crosspost on your blog site, internet forums. etc.

Award-winning author **Stephen Lendman** lives in Chicago. He can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net. He is a Research Associate of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG)

His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

<http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html>

Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com.

Featured image is from Wikimedia Commons

The original source of this article is Global Research
Copyright © [Stephen Lendman](#), Global Research, 2020

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Stephen Lendman](#)

About the author:

Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net. His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

<http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html> Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com. Listen to cutting-edge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network. It airs three times weekly: live on Sundays at 1PM Central time plus two prerecorded archived programs.

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants

permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca