

Iran Election Update

June 11, 2013

- Reformist candidate Mohammed Reza Aref [withdrew](#) his candidacy at the behest of former president Mohammed Khatami. “In consideration of Mr. Khatami's explicit opinion, and the experiences of two past presidential elections, I declare my withdrawal from the election campaign,” he said.
- President Ahmadinejad [said](#) that neither his government nor he will openly support any of the presidential candidates. “The president is a public servant and only has one vote, and only I know who I will vote for.”
- Former president Hashemi Rafsanjani [openly](#) backed Hassan Rouhani at a press conference today in front of students and reporters. ISNA posts a series of photos of [Rafsanjani](#) during today's press conference.
- On his personal website, former president Khatami [declared](#) that his vote will go to Hassan Rouhani.
- Tabnak News posts photos of candidate Mohsen Rezaei receiving a [warm](#) greeting from many supporters in the streets and photos of Rezaei [speaking](#) to supporters in the Ilam province. ISNA posts some [photos](#) of supporters openly campaigning for their respective candidates in public. ILNA posts a series of photos of candidate Saeed Jalili campaigning in front of a packed stadium of men and [women](#) in the northeastern city of Mashhad, as well as photos of Jalili speaking to a group of [students](#) in Mashhad. Fars News posts photos of Ali Akbar Velayati [campaigning](#) and speaking to supporters in the Hormozgan Province and photos of election campaign ads around the city of [Tabriz](#).
- Asr-Iran News's latest [poll](#) asks its readers who they will vote for this week. With almost 39,000 people responding, Hassan Rouhani is in the lead with 75% with Mohammed Bagher Qalibaf in second with 7% and Saeed Jalili in third place with 6%. Fars News [conducted](#) their own nationwide poll asking more than 22,000 people their opinions about the elections and calculates that Qalibaf and Jalili are the top two candidates and that they will reach the second round of voting.
- The Iran Media Program provides a [summary](#) and analysis in English of Iranian newspapers and their reporting and handling of the presidential elections as well as endorsements.
- The Secretary General of the Women's Society of Iran, Zahra Mostafavi, who is also the daughter of the late Ayatollah Khomeini, [released](#) an official statement from their organization saying that the group was officially backing candidate Hassan Rouhani. “Rouhani is the best suited candidate in this current difficult situation, because of his track record of diplomatic activity, and policies in dealing with the various factions and political groups.”
- Influential MP Ali Motahari [said](#), “No one can predict who will win the elections, but the prospects of Rouhani reaching the second round of voting (in a run-off) are very high.”
- Candidate Ali Akbar Velayati said that current [sanctions](#) “aren't just pieces of torn paper, and Iran should engage the world in effective diplomacy.” This was a reference to how President Ahmadinejad has described sanctions in the past.
- The Daily Star of Lebanon reports that Seyyed Reza Taghavi, the head of the Policymaking Council for Friday Imams, [said](#), “Iran's next president will play a role in setting the country's foreign policy tone, but certain principles on issues such as nuclear rights, Palestine, Syria and Lebanon will remain unchanged...based on our constitution, strategic policies are determined by the supreme leader.”

By Hanif Zarrabi-Kashani



Additional Iran Election Updates are available [here](#).

Election date is June 14, 2013.