



Lebanese Oil & Gas Initiative

المبادرة اللبنانية للنفط والغاز

Importance of Transparency and Openness of The Parliament

Commissioned by:

Lebanese Oil and Gas Initiative (LOGI)

Data Analysis by:

Vanessa Maksoud

Survey Launched on:

MySay Application

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The Canadian Embassy

Canada 



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Importance of Transparency and Openness of The Parliament

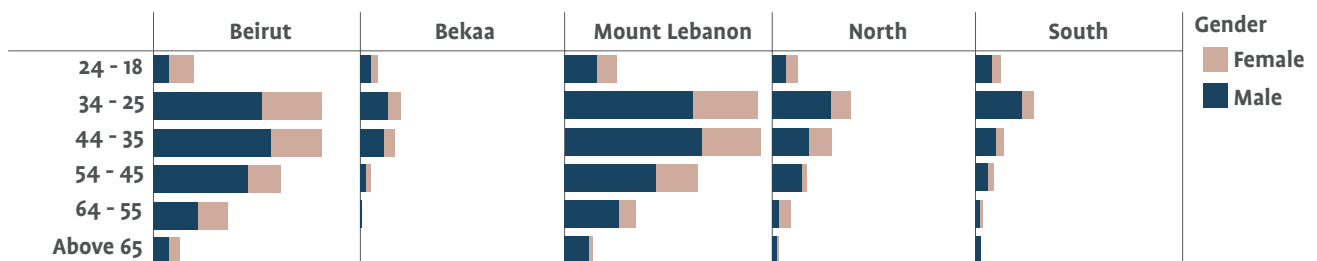
Introduction

Understanding that transparency and openness of the parliament would improve the legislative process is crucial. This would increase citizens' awareness of the importance of their participation and of the knowledge that needs to be gained about the country's governance.

Therefore, LOGI launched a survey targeting Lebanese citizens from different regions and ages between 18 and 80 years old. The objective is to analyze their level of understanding of the importance of transparency in the Lebanese parliament and its impact on the legislative process. Through this report, we are analyzing the answers of 1,072 people who participated in this survey.

We combined the regions as follows:

- **South**, includes Nabatieh and the rest of the South region.
- **Bekaa**, includes Baalbeck - Hermel and the rest of the Bekaa region.
- **North**, includes Akkar and the rest of the North region.
- **Beirut**
- **Mount Lebanon**



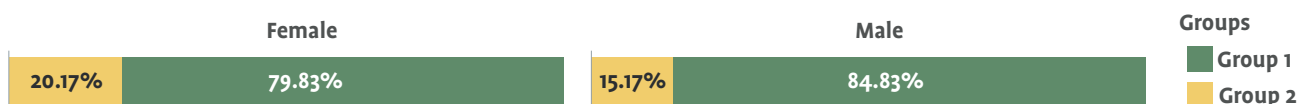
The following report was built on the analysis of the answers of 2 different groups:

Group 1: People who think transparency and openness of the parliament would improve legislative process (82.09%)

Group 2: People who think transparency and openness of the parliament would not improve legislative process (17.91%)

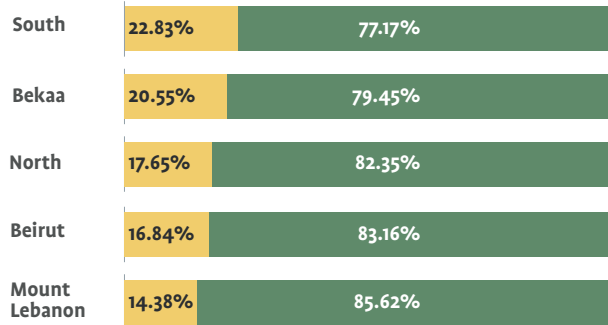
These 2 groups are distributed into gender, age groups, and regions.

Gender Distribution

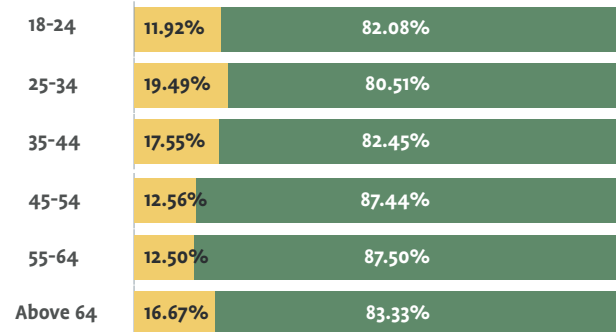


Females are more likely to belong to Group 2.

Region Distribution



Age Groups Distribution

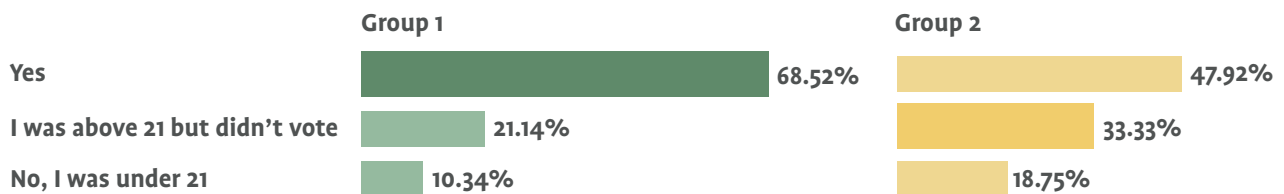


A relatively high percentage of participants in South and Bekaa belong to Group 2.

The percentage of participants belonging to Group 2 is relatively high for ages between 25-44 who are supposed to be aware of the importance of transparency and openness of the parliament.

Key Takeaways of the analyzed data

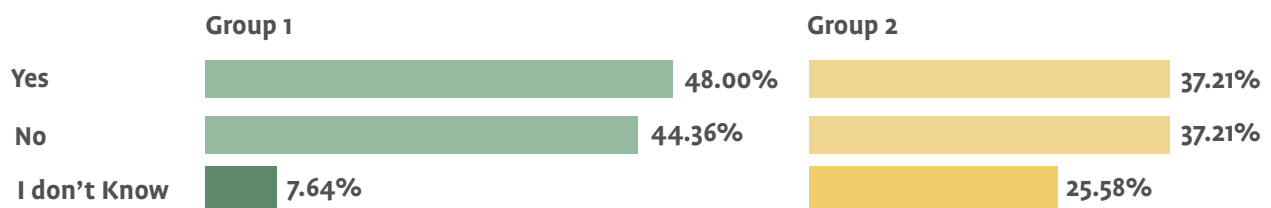
Significant portion of Group 2 participants eligible to vote, did not vote in 2018.



33.33% of Group 2 did not vote although they were above 21 in 2018. 68.52% of Group 1 voted in 2018 versus only 47.92% of Group 2.

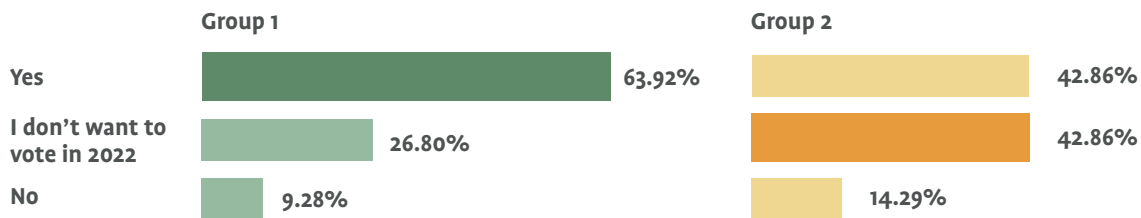
Approximately 61% of all participants went through the electoral program of the candidates.

A significant portion of Group 2 did not follow up with the work of their winning candidate.



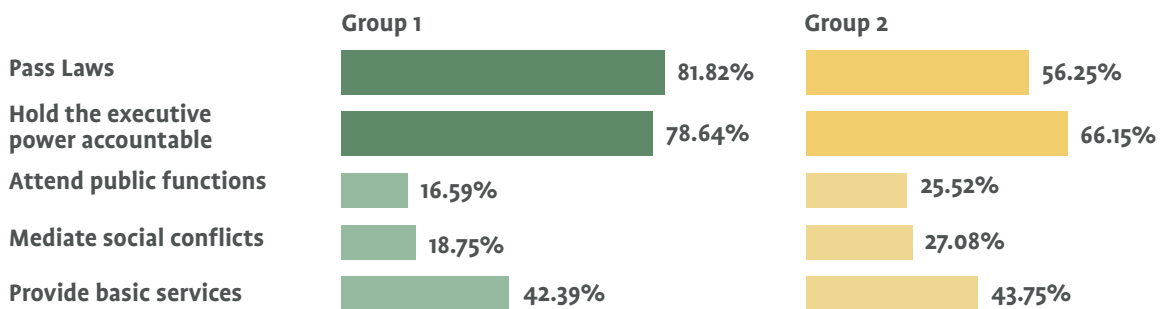
25.58% of Group 2 who voted for a winning candidate in 2018 do not know if the MP for whom they voted did implement his electoral program versus only 7.64% of Group 1.

Nearly 43% of Group 2 did not see the electoral program of their winning candidate in 2018 and are not willing to vote in 2022.



63.92% of Group 1 did not see the electoral program of their winning candidate in 2018 think that it is essential to see the candidate's electoral program in 2022.

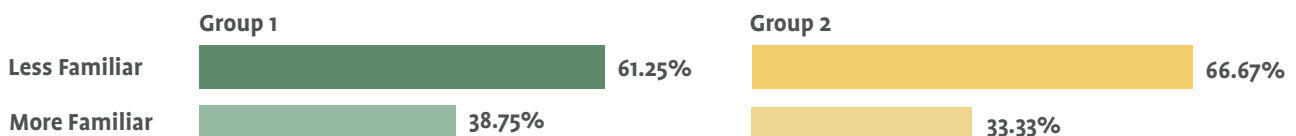
Group 2 participants tend to know less the right duties of MPs.



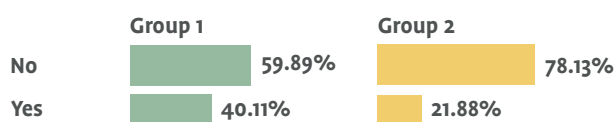
While 81.82% of Group 1 chose 'Pass laws' as an MP duty, only 56.25% from Group 2 chose it.

78.64% of Group 1 think that "Hold the executive power accountable" is an MP duty while only 66.15% of Group 2 have the same opinion.

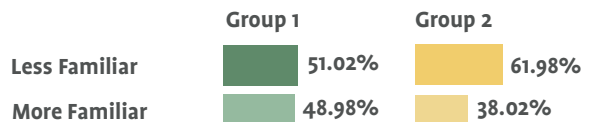
Group 2 participants are less familiar with laws voted on in the General Assembly.



Only 21.88% of Group 2 know how different parliamentary blocks voted on laws.

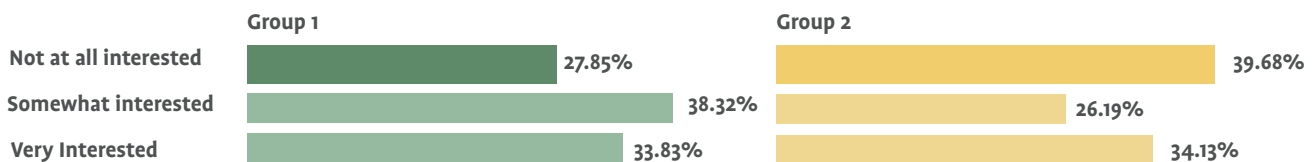


Group 2 participants are less familiar with how different parliamentary blocks voted on draft laws.



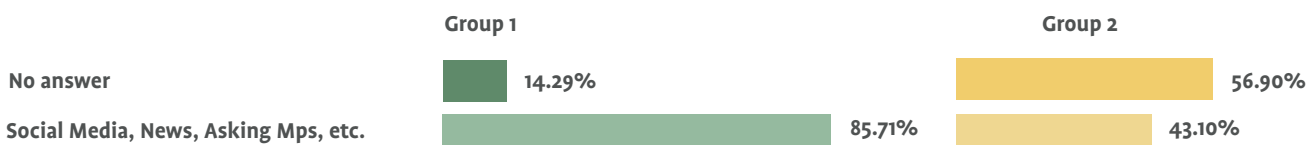
Participants who were less familiar with the laws that the General Assembly voted on, were asked about their interest in knowing how different parliamentary blocks voted.

39.68% from Group 2 are not familiar with laws that were voted on in the General Assembly and are not interested in knowing how different blocks voted.



When participants were more familiar with the laws that the General Assembly voted on, they were asked about how did they become familiar.

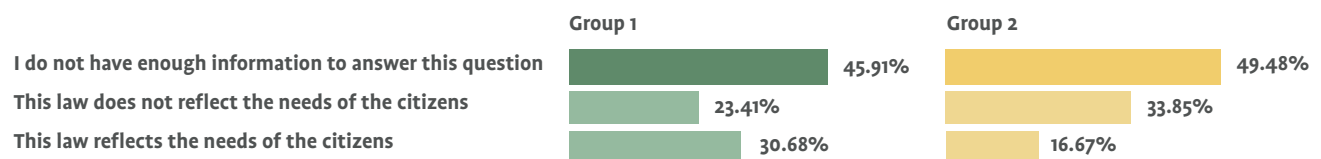
Group 2 did not share how were they familiar with the laws voted on in the General Assembly.



56.90% of Group 2 who were familiar with laws that were voted on in the General Assembly, did not answer the question about how they became familiar.

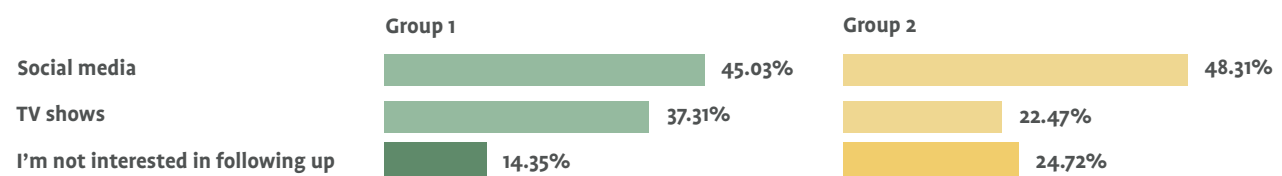
However, 85.71% of Group 1 stated that they became familiar through social media, news bulletin, conversations with MPs, etc.

Almost half of both groups claim that they do not have enough information to judge Lebanon’s forensic audit law.



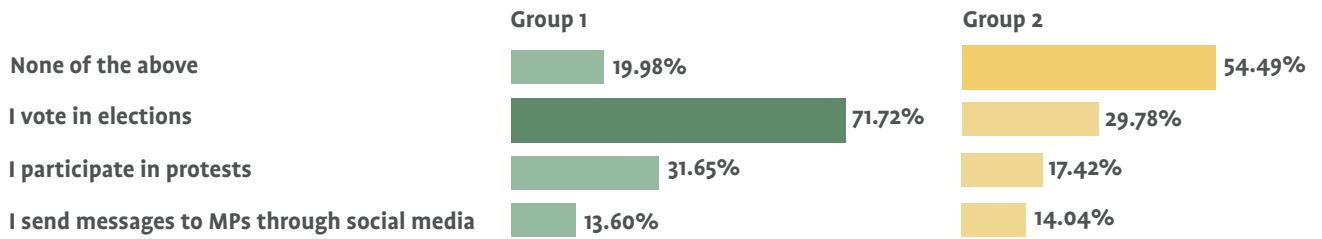
About half the participants think that the information about the MPs work is available.

Group 2 are less likely to follow up with MP’s work.



24.72% of Group 2 believe that information about MPs work is available but are not interested in following up on their work.

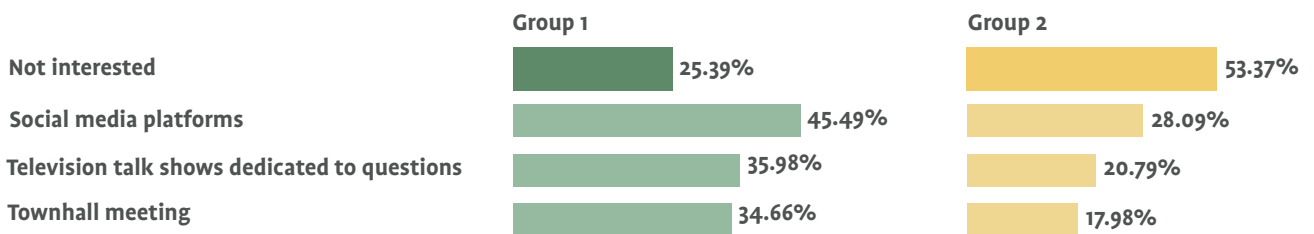
Participation channels were a barrier for Group 2 to express their views.



54.49% of Group 2 think that none of the channels listed are suitable.

71.72% of Group 1 believe that voting in elections is the appropriate channel.

More than half of Group 2 are not interested in communicating with the MPs.



Conclusion

The analysis done on 1,072 participants showcases that most people (Group 1 = 82.09%) do believe that transparency and openness of the parliament would improve the legislative process. On the other hand, the rest of the participants (Group 2 = 17.91%) do not believe that anything would change if we had more transparency and openness in the Lebanese parliament.

Females are more likely to belong to Group 2 (20.17% of females vs 15.17% of males). Also, participants located in the South and the Bekaa area tend to belong more to Group 2. What is most surprising is that the age group that includes a bigger percentage of participants who believe that transparency and openness of the parliament would not improve the legislative process is the group of 25 to 34 years old. This is considered the generation that is trying to make a change in the country.

As a result, we notice that the lack of women participation in politics could be the reason why they do belong to group 2. Moreover, the lack of awareness in the Bekaa and South area, is a main reason for them to belong to group 2.

LOGI believes that having more awareness campaigns targeting these three criterias (age, gender, and region) to highlight the importance of having a transparent and open parliament is something essential, especially when it comes to enhancing and increasing lobbying activities towards making a change.

It is crucial for Lebanese parliamentarians to amend article 34 of the parliament's internal bylaws to make committee sessions open to the public and publish the minutes of their meetings. This will be viewed as a positive outcome for those people who do believe in this as a step to improving the legislative process (group 1), while also being a counter argument and constructive insights to those in group 2.



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