

Iran Election Update

June 17, 2013: Election Results

- Mehr News covers new president-elect Hassan Rouhani as he held his first press conference today and [announced](#), "I am the president of all (Iranian) people and not just a few." Rouhani thanked all of his supporters and suggested to look ahead to the future and not dwell on the past. He also touched on a number of subjects such as sanctions; unemployment, the economy, and inflation; Syria; relations with the U.S, the U.K., and Saudi Arabia; and even sports. Mehr News also posted a series of [photos](#) of today's event.
- LenzIran posted a few video clips of today's press conference with new president-elect Hassan Rouhani. At one point during the Q&A, a blind journalist tells Rouhani that he is an Ahmadinejad supporter and [asks](#) him if he will be retaining or letting people go from Ahmadinejad's administration. Rouhani thanks the man and says, "We told people we have a key not a bus!" This was a reference to Rouhani's campaign of the use of a key "as a key of hope" and that the bus won't be giving everyone a ride. A reporter from the reformist newspaper Etemad also [asked](#) Rouhani, "You said during the campaign that you will get rid of the security atmosphere that surrounds politics, my question to you is what's your plan and how will you deal with political prisoners (Mousavi and Karroubi) now imprisoned that were once leaders during the Iranian Revolution?" Rouhani answered, "I am positive about this, but we should know that one president or one judiciary cannot solve this situation, all three branches will need to work together but I am completely hopeful that this (security) environment will change." Toward the end of the session, Rouhani prepares to leave the conference hall and someone in the crowd [shouted](#), "Mousavi should be here!" His comment was met with applause.
- Mehr News posted [photos](#) taken over the weekend of Hassan Rouhani visiting the mausoleum of the late founder of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Khomeini after his win in the presidential election. He was accompanied by the grandson of Ayatollah Khomeini, Hassan Khomeini. Also posted were multiple sets of photos of [jubilant](#) Iranians in Tehran celebrating the election win of Rouhani: set [Two](#), set [Three](#), set [Four](#).
- Jahan News published the [reaction](#) of the editor of the conservative newspaper Kayhan, Hossein Shariatmadari, as he tries to explain the reasons as to why Hassan Rouhani was able to be elected as president. "Attempts are being made to show that Hassan Rouhani owes his presidency to the support he received from reformists." He continues, "It must be said that not only does Rouhani not feel obligated to reformists, but it is reformists who should thank Rouhani as his rise to power provides them an occasion to return to the political stage," he added.
- Mehr News [announced](#) the official results of the Tehran city council elections. Voter turnout was above 50%, which is unprecedentedly high according to Esi Farhadi, the governor of Tehran. The current Chairman of the City Council of Tehran and veteran politician Mehdi Chamran received the most votes with 566,614 votes.

- Hassan Nasrallah, the Secretary General of Secretary of [Hezbollah](#), and Bashar Al-Assad, the president of [Syria](#), both sent messages of congratulations to the new president-elect Hassan Rouhani. The Prime Minister of [Hamas](#), Ismail Haniyeh, also sent Rouhani a congratulatory message [saying](#), "On behalf of the Palestinian people and the State of Palestine, I offer you and the dear Iranian nation congratulations...we are hopeful this choice maintains prosperity, development, and strengthening national resistance against the oppressive colonial powers."
- In an interview, Deputy Speaker of Parliament Mohammed Reza Bahonar [said](#), "President-elect Rouhani is non-partisan and other political parties should not feel defeated because his win is a win for the Iranian nation and national unity."
- Former presidential candidate Mohammed Reza Aref [said](#), "The people have shown that they appreciate convergence and understanding as many (prior to election day) said that they would not vote, and that my encouragement (in telling people to vote) was extremely valuable."
- ILNA in an article [asked](#), "Where is the birthplace of Hassan Rouhani," and gives a history of the city of Sorkheh in the northern Semnan Province, which is the birthplace of the new president-elect.
- Since the creation of the Islamic Republic of Iran there have been 10 different Ministers of Culture and Guidance. In the wake of the election of Hassan Rouhani, the new president will be responsible in naming the new minister of culture to replace Mohammed Hosseini, who was chosen by Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. ISNA [provides](#) short biographies and pictures of the previous ten ministers.

By Hanif Zarrabi-Kashani



Additional Iran Election Updates are available [here](#).
Election date was June 14, 2013.