

Syrian Presidential Elections 2021

Map of interacting with the ballot boxes by sub-districts





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Introduction

On May 26, 2021, the presidential election was held in Syria for the second time after the adoption of the 2012 constitution.

The Syrian regime made all possible efforts to present the polling show as an occasion to demonstrate its control over the country, and reflect its ability to mobilize the public to interact with its propaganda programs.

This report, issued by Jusoor Center for Studies in cooperation with the "Informagene platform for data collection and analysis", monitors interactions to the presidential elections in Syria, according to the official division of administrative units on the basis of the 270 districts.

Interactions mean the probability of participating in the polling or not in the areas that have boxes receiving ballots, or to boycott in areas have ballot boxes and other have no boxes at all.

According to the map reflected in the report, the number of eligible voters over the age of 18 in the regime-controlled areas is about 6 million, in the districts that were engaged in the elections, and about 1,150,000 in the districts that boycotted. These numbers express the upper limits of participation or non-participation among those entitled to vote, as the demographic study prepared by the Informagene platform showed that those who have entered 18 years are about 66% of the total population.



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On March 25, 2021, Jusoor Center for Studies, in cooperation with the Informagene platform for data collection and analysis, issued a [study on demographic change](#), which clarifies the population distribution inside and outside Syria and, in the areas, controlled by either the Syrian regime, the Syrian opposition or the Syrian Democratic Forces. There are about 16.5 million people inside Syria, of whom about 9.4 million living in the Syrian regime-held areas, and 7.075 million are in regions outside the regime's control.

First: Points had ballot boxes and reacted to the elections

The map of interacting shows that 154 sub-districts had polling boxes and that interacted with the election, in all governorates except Idlib.

The percentage of districts in which there were ballot boxes; interacted with the election by governorates as follows: in Hasakah 13%, Raqqa 30%, As-Suwayda %50 ,Quneitra 75%, Latakia 91%, Aleppo 23%, Hama 86%, Homs 91%, Daraa 12%, Damascus 100%, Rif Dimashq 97%, Deir ez-Zor %43 and in Tartous 100%.

Interacting with the election does not necessarily mean the participation of all residents who have the right to vote, but rather indicates the ability of the Syrian regime to establish polling stations and place boxes inside them.

However, it can be said that the governorates that witnessed a large proportion of interaction, such as Tartous, Lattakia, Homs, Hama,

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Damascus, Rif Dimashq and Quneitra, may have witnessed a wide participation of voters, as a result of either the voluntary turnout of a part of the population or as a result of the Syrian regime's coercive means, such as threats of dismissal from jobs or security persecution in case one does not cast vote.

Second: Points had ballot boxes with boycott the elections

The map shows the presence of 46 sub-districts in which there were polling stations, but the elections were boycotted, in 9 governorates.

The proportion of the boycott in Idlib governorate was 31%, As-Suwayda 50%, Quneitra 25%, Aleppo 20%, Hama 14%, Homs 9%, Daraa 88%, Deir ez-Zor 14% and in Rif Dimashq 3%.

By boycotting, in the sub-districts that had polling stations, the residents either did not participate as a result of the refusal of the elections, or the lack of residents in the first place, especially in areas that the regime has taken control over recently or that have undergone a process of displacement of the local population. For example, the Central Committee in Daraa issued a joint statement with some civil activists on May 23, calling for a boycott of the elections. Likewise, the campaign launched by activists in As-Suwayda Governorate on March 5, under the slogan "Do not run in the elections", which was

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accompanied by the distribution of posters and the writing of many murals to boycott the elections.

Also, many areas witnessed a boycott of the elections due to the lack of residents in them, such as some areas of Idlib from which the people were deported and refused to return after the hostilities launched by the Syrian regime between 2019 and 2020.

In fact, the boycott in the areas where the polling stations were located indicates the lack of acceptance by the majority of the population in the areas controlled by the regime's military and security forces, and the absence of sovereignty, given that the latter was unable to implement electoral activities.

Third: Points had no polling stations at all and boycotted the elections

The map of interacting shows that 70 sub-districts had no ballot boxes as a result of boycotting the elections and rejecting vote completely, in 6 governorates.

The boycott rate in Idlib governorate reached 69%, Hasakah 88%, Raqqa 70%, Latakia 9%, Aleppo 58% and Deir ez-Zor 43%.

Boycott happened in sub-districts had no polling stations, others not controlled by the regime in the northwest and north-east of the country,

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which amount to 36.62% of the total area of Syria while also making up approximately 48% of the total area of the "useful Syria."

The Syrian opposition has issued many statements categorically rejecting the elections and not recognizing them, as well as the Autonomous Administration in northeastern Syria announced the same position and closed all the crossings linking its regions with the Syrian regime to prevent holding any vote activities in its areas of control.

The boycott of the elections in areas had no polling stations indicates the inability of the Syrian regime to reach more than a third of the country's area, in which more than 43% of the total population resides inside Syria, and this is also an indication of the absence of sovereignty and therefore the absence of legitimacy.

Abstract

According to the report's findings, the Syrian regime has not been able to open polling stations in 70 sub-districts in Syria, out of a total of 270 districts, or about 25% of all of them. These regions represent 36.6% of the total area of Syria, and 48% of the total area of the "useful Syria."

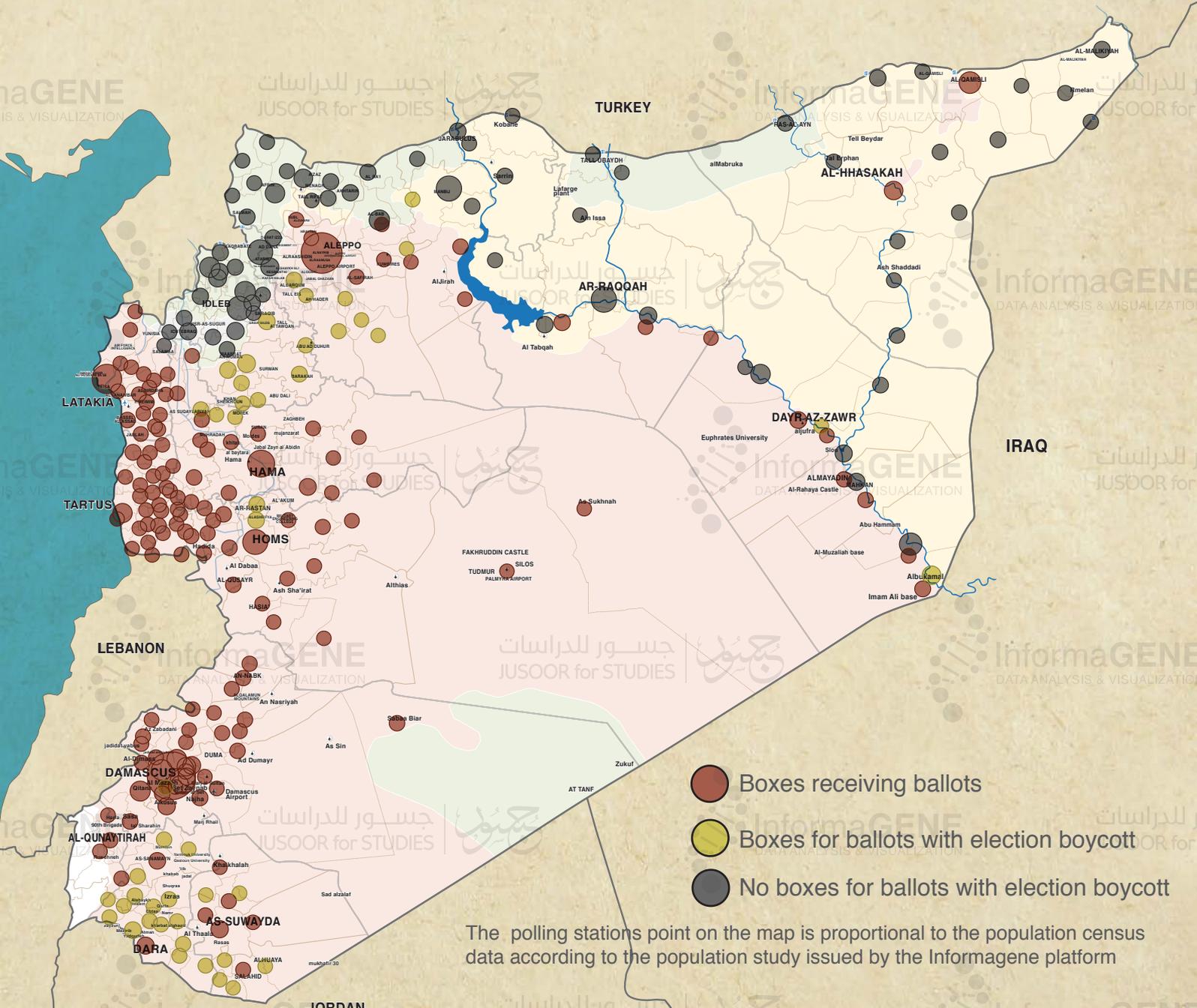
In addition, the report monitored the presence of 46 sub-districts where polling stations were located, but the elections were boycotted in 9 governorates. That is, raising the percentage of districts that did not witness vote to 42% of all.

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The data also show that the number of people who are entitled to vote in the areas in which the regime was able to open boxes receiving ballots in Syria was just around 6 million, although it would be announcing the participation of at least 16 million people, noting that the regime has recently announced that the number of those eligible to vote exceeds 18 million people.

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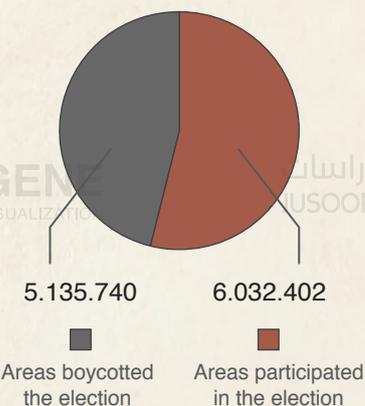
Map of interacting with the ballot boxes by sub-districts



- Boxes receiving ballots
- Boxes for ballots with election boycott
- No boxes for ballots with election boycott

The polling stations point on the map is proportional to the population census data according to the population study issued by the Informagene platform

Distribution of eligible voters, over 18 years old



Effectiveness rate of ballot boxes by governorates

