

Iran hard-liners win election, but with record low-turnout of 42.57%

Experts: Regime trying to prepare for more years of Trump.

By **Yonah Jeremy Bob** / Feb. 23, 2020

Iranian hard-liners won the parliamentary election by a landslide, capturing around 200 out of its 290 seats, but the regime was embarrassed by a record low voter turnout of 42.57%, Iran's Interior Ministry announced on Sunday.

Recent elections have seen voter turnout at levels of between 60-66%, and the previous lowest turnout was around 52% in 2004.

[...]

INSS Iran expert **Raz Zimmt** echoed that the low voter turnout would “harm the legitimacy of the regime. Many citizens felt that there was no reason to vote. Most reformists were disqualified and the pragmatists were not so successful. The longer this situation lasts, it can be problematic for the regime. The regime likes to present the appearance of representing the nation, even if not as a democracy.”

On the flip side, **Zimmt** said that even the low turnout still means “there are still 40% [of the population], and outside of Tehran even higher, that are still ready [to vote] despite all of the problems, and the results being known in advance.”

Zimmt pointed out that though it was a “landslide victory for the conservatives [in Tehran], in most of the areas, no reformists were approved to run.”

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