



## Jordanian Women's Political Participation in The Nineteenth Parliament Elections (2020): The Beginning of the Political Rise of Jordanian Women?

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### Abstract

**Objectives:** This study seeks to elucidate the significance of Jordanian women's political engagement in parliamentary elections by assessing their participation rights, examining the process of women's candidacy within the quota system, and evaluating their representation in open electoral competition.

**Methods:** The research used the descriptive analytical method to identify the nature of Jordanian women's participation in the elections of the nineteenth parliament for (2020). This was conducted by analyzing the texts of the Jordanian Constitution and those of the Election Law for the parliament as well as identifying their contents, implications and objectives to find appropriate solutions to ensure the participation of Jordanian women in the parliamentary elections in addition to the study and analysis of statistical tables.

**Results:** The results indicated that the Parliament's Election Law granted Jordanian women the right to vote for membership in the Parliament while the Jordanian women participated as voters and candidates in the 19th Parliament elections for the year (2020). Yet, the results showed that the Election Law specified a mechanism for Jordanian women's candidacy for the women's quota and determined the extent of Jordanian women's representation through free competition for the electoral district.

**Conclusions:** The study recommended the necessity that the competent authorities in Jordan shall review the Election Law for the Parliament periodically together with the need to amend the Election Law to specify a quota for women in the seats allocated to the Circassians, Chechens and Christians to ensure real equality in rights and duties between men and women

**Keywords:** Political participation, Jordanian women, parliamentary elections, women's quota, parliament, election law, Jordanian constitution.

### المشاركة السياسية للمرأة الأردنية في الانتخابات النيابية لمجلس النواب التاسع عشر للعام 2020: بداية الصعود السياسي للمرأة الأردنية

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#### ملخص

**الأهداف:** تهدف هذه الدراسة النوعية إلى توضيح مفهوم وأهمية المشاركة السياسية للمرأة الأردنية في الانتخابات النيابية من خلال بيان مدى حق المرأة في المشاركة السياسية في الانتخابات النيابية وتحديد آلية ترشح المرأة للكويتا النسائية وإظهار مدى تمثيل المرأة من خلال المنافسة الحرة للدائرة الانتخابية.

**المنهجية:** استخدم البحث المنهج الوصفي التحليلي لتعرف طبيعة مشاركة المرأة الأردنية في انتخابات مجلس النواب التاسع عشر لعام (2020) من خلال تحليل نصوص الدستور الأردني ونصوص قانون الانتخابات لمجلس النواب وتعرف محتوياتها ودلالاتها وأهدافها لإيجاد الحلول المناسبة لضمان مشاركة المرأة الأردنية في الانتخابات النيابية، بالإضافة إلى دراسة وتحليل الجداول الإحصائية.

**النتائج:** أشارت النتائج إلى أن قانون الانتخابات لمجلس النواب منح المرأة الأردنية حق التصويت لعضوية مجلس النواب، وشاركت المرأة الأردنية كناخبة ومرشحة في انتخابات مجلس النواب التاسع عشر لعام (2020)، وأظهرت النتائج أن قانون الانتخابات حدد آلية لترشح المرأة الأردنية للكويتا النسائية وحدد مدى تمثيل المرأة الأردنية من خلال المنافسة الحرة للدائرة الانتخابية.

**الخلاصة:** أوصت الدراسة بضرورة قيام الجهات المختصة في الأردن بمراجعة قانون الانتخابات لمجلس النواب على نحو دوري، مع ضرورة تعديل قانون الانتخابات لتحديد حصص للنساء في المقاعد المخصصة للشركس والشيشان والمسيحيين لضمان المساواة الحقيقية في الحقوق والواجبات بين الرجل والمرأة.

**الكلمات الدالة:** المشاركة السياسية، المرأة الأردنية، الانتخابات النيابية، الكوتا النسائية، مجلس النواب، قانون الانتخاب، الدستور الأردني.



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## 1. Introduction

Women's political participation is a manifestation of women's political empowerment, and this is an indication of respect for human rights, especially women's rights, which enhances women's participation in political life and eliminates any form of gender discrimination, due to the global democratic progress, women's political participation has become an international requirement so that women can possess her full civil and political rights, the most important of these rights is the right to vote and candidate for parliamentary elections.

### 1.1. Objectives of the study

The study aims to clarify the listed below:

- The concept and importance of women's political participation in the parliamentary elections.
- The extent of Jordanian women's right to political participation in the parliamentary elections according to the Jordanian election law.
- The extent to which Jordanian women participated and voted in the elections of the nineteenth parliament for the year (2020).
- Demonstrate the mechanism of women's candidacy for the women's quota according to the Elections Law No. (6) of (2016) and its amendments. Demonstrating the extent to which Jordanian women are represented through free competition for electoral district membership.

### 1.2. The Importance of the Study

The importance of this study lies in that it deals with the political participation of women in the parliamentary elections of the nineteenth parliament of (2020), and the effect of amending Parliamentary Elections Law No. (6) of (2016) to raise the numbers allocated to women's membership in the parliament from (12) to (15) seats, the importance of this study also stems from that it addresses by research and analysis the impact of the women's quota in Parliament Elections Law No. (6) of (2016) and its amendments on the representation of Jordanian women in the (2020) parliamentary elections, this study is considered one of the modern and important topics that have a significant impact on practical reality, and through this study the researcher will take into account all aspects of the topic, whether theoretical or practical.

### 1.3. The study problem and its questions

The dilemmas facing the study lie in presenting the extent to which Jordanian women are granted the right to political participation in the (2020) parliamentary elections, this study will attempt to answer the questions that represent the study's dilemma, which is represented in two main dilemmas: What is the nature of women's political participation in the parliamentary elections? What is the extent of participation and representation of Jordanian women in the parliamentary elections (2020)? From these main dilemmas arise several sub-questions, the most important of which are: What is the concept and importance of women's political participation in the parliamentary elections? To what extent are Jordanian women granted the right to political participation in parliamentary elections according to the Jordanian election law? What is the extent of Jordanian women's participation as voters and candidates in the parliamentary elections? To what extent are Jordanian women represented through free competition for membership in the electoral districts?

To answer the previous questions, one should refer to the Jordanian Constitution of the year (1952) and its amendments, and Parliament Elections Law No. (6) of (2016), and to refer for the detailed report on the general parliamentary elections of the nineteenth parliament council of (2020) published in the Official Gazette No. (5723) dated (10 June 2021), and the final results of the parliamentary elections for members of the nineteenth parliament council of (2020), published on No. (5678) dated (16 November 2020) of the Official Gazette.

### 1.4. Materials and Methods

This study adopts the descriptive analytical approach to identify the nature of Jordanian women's participation in the elections of the nineteenth parliament of (2020), in addressing the sections and topics listed under this title, explaining the differences between them, and knowing the strengths and weaknesses of these different directions and the extent to which they are considered, the study will also use the legal method by researching the texts of the Jordanian constitution and the texts of Elections Law No. (6) of (2016) and its amendments, and analyze all the texts of legislation related to the subject

of the research, to identify its contents, connotations and objectives, and to criticize and discuss on them, the study also sheds light on the critical aspect of the researcher, as the research required the use of several research methods due to its complex nature between the texts of legislation, opinions and jurisprudence trends.

Accordingly, the analytical approach will be adopted in this research to analyze all provisions of legislation related to the subject of this research in order to identify its contents, implications, and objectives, then criticize and comment on it, and highlight the differences between those provisions, and knowing the strengths and weaknesses of these different trends, and the extent of which they are considered, and highlighting the critical aspect of the researcher, where this research necessitated the use of several research methods due to its complex nature among the texts of the law, the viewpoints, the jurisprudential trends

However, many studies have addressed the topic both briefly and indirectly, so even though the subject of this study has not received enough research due to the rarity of studies, what distinguishes this study is that it is one of the practically distinguished studies in its field.

For that purpose, the method in this research will be twofold: first, analysis or interpretation; second, critique with ideas for modifications, followed by a conclusion expressing proposed changes.

## **2. The Nature of Women's Political Participation in the Parliamentary Elections**

Women's political participation in elections is one of the basic rights that must be granted to women, the representation of women worldwide has gradually increased compared to the previous parliamentary elections due to the allocation of fixed parliamentary seats to them, (Pierson, 2018), therefore, and by addressing the nature of women's political participation in the parliamentary elections, this study will explore the concept of women's political participation in the parliamentary elections, and the extent to which Jordanian women are granted the right to political participation in the parliamentary elections, according to the Jordanian election law (Al-Tarawneh, 2019).

### ***2.1 The concept of women's political participation in parliamentary elections***

The concept of women's political participation in the parliamentary elections is one of the basic issues in all democratic societies, as women's political participation is a necessary requirement so that women can express their volition and claim their rights; this participation aims to consolidate the principle of equality between males and females through political participation without any discrimination (Al-Musumi, 2011).

Meaningful political participation requires a broader definition of politics, which goes beyond the institutional boundaries of the state in other areas of life, including social and economic (Howell, 2002).

#### ***2.1.1 The definition of women's political participation in parliamentary elections***

The political participation constitutes a basis for democracy, as through this participation, universal suffrage is extended and expanded at different rates and fields, to include all members of the political community, men and women, as well as through its legal regulation that encourages the freedom of public meetings through the attendance of parties and associations, considering that this participation alone grants democracy its true legal meaning (Seifan, 2004; Brown, 2014).

Part of jurisprudence defines women's political participation as: "The pluralism that forms the natural framework for the relatively free rotation of authorities among the types of social elites' parties" (Ghalion, 2004).

While other part of jurisprudence defined it as: "Interaction in all forms of political participation, including elections and candidacy for parliament and municipal councils, access to decision-making positions, affiliation with political parties, and electoral campaigning" (Al-Rawashdeh & Al-A'rab, 2016).

Another part of jurisprudence defined it as: "Giving citizens equal opportunities to shape the form of government and to contribute to the self-determination of their state in the way they wish, so that they can formulate the political, economic, and social conditions under which they wish to live" (Al-Baz, 2002).

It can be said that women's political participation is: "Granting women the right to participate in elections, to vote and to candidate for parliamentary elections, and to allocate a certain number of memberships for them in the parliament to ensure their access to the parliament." (Steuernagel, 1987).

### *2.1.2 The importance of women's political participation in parliamentary elections*

Women's participation in the parliamentary elections represents the level of society's awareness of itself and its civilization, given that women's political participation is in essence a civilized phenomenon as much as it is a political phenomenon, so that when society reaches a certain stage of progress, the issue of women's participation in political life becomes one of its most essential issues (Rahmoni, 1999).

In addition, the importance of women's participation in political life is manifested in increasing women's self-confidence, because when an individual lacks confidence, he avoids political participation, which reduces his chances of influencing, on the contrary, when he has strong self-confidence, his path will end with participation in politics (Muthanna, 2008).

So that the presence of women in senior political leadership positions does not mean their political participation, as political participation depends on the presence of a motive to participate in political activity through the availability of women's competencies and the economic, political and organizational environment in order to guide women politically to enable them to play an effective role in performing their decision-making activity (Jabir & Al-Adwan, 2017).

The participation of women in political life is also considered a form of democracy, and the participation of women in political life is considered one of the indicators of the democracy of the regime of government in any country (Sami, 2008).

### ***2.2 The extent to which Jordanian women are granted the right to political participation in parliamentary elections according to the Jordanian constitution and the Jordanian election law***

The Jordanian Constitution and the Jordanian Parliamentary Elections Law No. (6) and its amendments of (2016) grant Jordanian women the right to political participation in parliamentary elections, so that the law establishes Jordanian women the right to vote and the right to candidate for parliamentary elections and allocate additional seats for them in Parliament (women's quota) (Al-Rawashdeh & Al-A'rab, 2016; Abdo-Katsipis, 2017).

#### *2.2.1 Granting Jordanian women, the right to vote according to the Jordanian constitution and the electoral law*

It is worth mentioning that the Jordanian constitution legislature laid down the basic rules for the equality of Jordanians in front of the law (Galleon, 2004), whereas Article (6/1) of the Jordanian Constitution stipulates that: "Jordanians citizens are equal in front of the law, with no difference between them in rights and duties, even if they differ in race, language or religion", and Article (6/6) of the Jordanian Constitution stipulates that: "The State shall ensure the empowerment of women and support them to play an active role in building society, ensuring equal opportunities on the basis of justice and equity and protecting them from all forms of violence and discrimination" and Article (128/1) of the Jordanian Constitution states the following: "The laws issued pursuant to this constitution regulating rights and freedoms may not affect the essence of these rights or its basics" (Articles quoted from the Jordanian Constitution of 2022).

The Jordanian election law also granted for the parliament the right to vote for Jordanian women, as Article (3) of it stipulates the following: a- Every Jordanian who has completed eighteen years of age ninety days before the date fixed for the election may elect members of the parliament in accordance with the provisions of this law. b- The right to vote is suspended for members of the Armed Forces/Arab Army, General Intelligence, Public Security, Gendarmerie Forces and Civil Defense while they are in active service, with the exception of civilian servants. c- The following shall be denied the right to vote: 1-The individual who has been convicted of bankruptcy and has not been legally rehabilitated. 2-The insane, the lunatic, or the interdicted person. d- The constituency will not include in the lists of voters the name of the person who's right to vote has been suspended or denied voting in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (b) and (c) of this Article (Article 3, the Jordanian Parliament Election Law, 2016).

Referring to the text of Article (6/1) of the Constitution, it is noted that Jordanian and Jordanian women includes every Jordanian, male or female, without distinction between them in rights and duties, even if they differ in race, language or religion, and the laws issued pursuant to this constitution may not affect the essence of these rights and freedom or its basics (Al-Tarawneh, 2019).

It is also noted through the text of Article (3) of the Parliament's Elections Law that the word "Jordanian" refers to every Jordanian, whether man or woman, who has reached the age of eighteen, ninety days before the date set for the

election, may elect members of the parliament, without any discrimination between Jordanians (Al-Rawashdeh & Al-A'rab, 2016).

*2.2.2 Granting Jordanian women, the right to candidate for parliamentary elections in accordance with the Jordanian constitution and the election law*

It should be noted that the Jordanian constitutional legislator set the basic rules for granting Jordanian women the right to candidate for parliamentary elections, as Article (75/1) of the Jordanian Constitution stipulates the following: "A- May not be a member of the Senate or the parliament: a- The non-Jordanian. b- Whoever has been convicted of bankruptcy and has not been legally rehabilitated. c- Whoever was interdicted and the interdict was not removed from him. d- Whoever has been sentenced to imprisonment for a period exceeding one year for a non-political crime and has not been pardoned. e- The non-possess full capacity. f- Whoever is a relative of the King within the limits specified by a special law." (Article 75/1 of the Jordanian Constitution)

Article (67/1) of the Jordanian Constitution states the following: "Parliament is composed of members elected through general, secret and direct elections in accordance with the election law...." (Articles quoted from the Jordanian Constitution of 1952) (Article (67/1) of the Jordanian Constitution).

Also, Article (8/b) of the Parliamentary Elections Law for the year (2016) and its amendments stipulates the following: "In addition to the parliamentary seats stipulated in Paragraph (A) of this Article, fifteen seats are allotted to women on the basis of one seat for each governorate.", and Article (9/d/2) of the same law stipulates the following: "Female candidates must candidate for the seat reserved for women on the lists, and the candidate, according to the provisions of this item, is not considered among the upper limit on the list.", also, Article (10) of the same law stipulates the following: "A candidate for membership of the parliament must meet the following conditions: a- To be a Jordanian citizen for at least ten years.", Article (18) of the same law stipulates: "If it turns out that the number of candidates in a constituency is equal to the number of parliamentary seats allotted to that constituency or the seats allotted to women, Circassia's, Chechens or Christians, the council shall decide that these candidates shall win by acclamation, when the final results of the elections are announced.", as Article (46/a/4) of the same law stipulates the following: "The winner of the seat allotted for women in each governorate is determined on the basis of the highest votes obtained by the candidate from the total votes cast in her electoral district, and if the governorate is divided into more than one electoral district, the winner seat is determined on the basis of the highest percentage of votes obtained by any of the female candidates In her constituency among the constituencies of that governorate.", Article (48/b) of the same law states the following: "The head of the Special Committee announces to the public the names of the winners of the seats reserved for women, and this announcement is considered a preliminary result of the elections regarding these seats.", and Article (50/b) of the same law states: "When the Committee decides to approve the preliminary results of the elections regarding the seats reserved for women, the results shall be considered as final results for the seats for women in the Kingdom.", while Article (54/b) of the same law states: "If any seat designated for women in the parliament becomes vacant for any reason, the candidate immediately following the holder of the vacant seat shall fill it, as stated in Clause (4) of Paragraph (A) of Article (46) of this law" (Articles quoted from the Jordanian Election Law for the parliament, 2016; Al-Tarawneh, 2019).

Concerning the provisions of Articles (67/1 and 75/1) of the Jordanian Constitution set out above, it is noticeable that the word "Jordanian" includes all Jordanians, males, and females, without distinction between them in rights and duties, as Jordanian women were granted the right to the candidate for parliamentary elections (Galleon, 2004).

It is also noted through the provisions of Articles (8/b, 9/d/2, 10, 18, 46/a/4, 48/b, 50/b, and 54/b) of the Parliament's election law that it has set provisions for a mechanism for the candidacy of women for parliamentary elections, and the law established special seats for women called (women's quota), as (15) fifteen seats were determined for them equal to the number of governorates in the Kingdom, and how to determine the winner of the seat allotted for women, the mechanism for announcing the names of the winners in Parliament, and addressing the vacancy of the seat allotted for women in the Parliament (Sami, 2008).

### 3. The Participation and Representation of Jordanian Women in the Parliamentary Elections of (2020)

It is worth noting that the elections for the Nineteenth Parliament for the year (2020) took place according to the Parliament Election Law No. (6) of (2016) and its amendments, so that Jordanian women participated in these parliamentary elections, and she was represented in the said Parliament, therefore, by studying the participation and representation of Jordanian women in the parliamentary elections of (2020), the participation of Jordanian women in the named parliamentary elections, and the representation of Jordanian women in the Parliament that emerged from this elections, will be discussed (Galleon, 2004).

#### 3.1 Jordanian Women's Participation in the Parliamentary Elections of (2020)

The Jordanian woman participated in the parliamentary elections of (2020), so that the Jordanian woman participated in the parliamentary elections as a voter, elector and a candidate as well, therefore, this study, by addressing the participation of Jordanian women in the parliamentary elections of (2020), will shed light on the participation of Jordanian women as voters and electors in the parliamentary elections, and the participation of Jordanian women as candidates in the parliamentary elections (Al-Rawashdeh & Al-A'rab, 2016).

##### 3.1.1 Jordanian women's participation as a voter and an elector in the parliamentary elections

With regard to the participation of Jordanian women as voters, it should be noted that the electoral law allows the inclusion of the names of those who have reached the age of eighteen on the day of the election, whereas, pre-registration in the voters' list was not required, thus, the number of voters reached (4,655,411), distributed over the electoral districts as follows, the number of male voters according to the preliminary lists of the electoral districts reached (2,205,334) with a percentage of (47.3%), while the number of female voters was (2,450,077), with a percentage of (52.6%) (Table No. 1; The detailed report of the general elections of the Nineteenth Council of (2020)- 10 June 2021).

The commission set the period for receiving personal objection requests from voters according to the timetable based on the provisions of the election law, from the period (15 August 2020) to (25 August 2020), and accordingly, the commission provided the electoral district with all its requirements for the purpose of receiving and deciding on personal objection requests from voters, furnish the district with a guide manual to this process, and organize workshops to raise awareness for district employees, whereas the Civil Status and Passports Department received (34,232) objections, (29,914) objections were accepted, and (4,318) objections were rejected (The detailed report of the general elections of the Nineteenth Council of (2020)- 10 June 2021).

And based on the provisions of the election law, the commission set the period between (15 August 2020) and (21 August 2020) to receive objection requests from voters against others through the electoral commissions' centers, these centers were provided with their requirements for the purpose of receiving applications, and online training workshops were held on the procedures for receiving applications through the electronic application prepared for this purpose, the committee received (740) objections against the others, (677) objections were accepted, and (63) applications were rejected (Table No. 1; The detailed report of the general elections of the Nineteenth Council of (2020) - 10 June 2021; Al-Musumi, 2011).

The preparation of the final lists of voters was completed on (10 May 2020), and the committee published hard copies of the lists in the electoral commissions' centers, branch offices, through the official website of the committee, through inquiries via SMS to the numbers (94455), or through the main call center on the toll-free number (117100) by inquiring via the national number, as the percentage of voters by gender according to the final tables was (47%) for males and (53%) for females (Table No. 1; The detailed report of the general elections of the Nineteenth Council of (2020) - 10 June 2021).

**Table 1. The Final Numbers of Male and Female Voters**

The Electoral District	Final Voter Numbers	Males	Females
The Capital – I	322,052	157,345	164,707
The Capital – II	443,281	219,171	224,110
The Capital – III	266,126	127,140	138,986

<b>The Electoral District</b>	<b>Final Voter Numbers</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
The Capital -IV	283,367	137,499	145,868
The Capital – V	414,680	196,363	218,317
Balqa	335,921	158,446	177,475
Al Zarqa – I	506,604	248,305	258,299
Al Zarqa – II	148,627	71,062	77,565
Madaba	119,404	55,298	64,106
Northern Bedouins	98,026	43,540	54,486
The Middle Bedouins	64,666	28,584	36,082
Southern Bedouins	73,868	32,920	40,948
Irbid – I	362,347	174,185	188,162
Irbid – II	164,410	76,717	87,693
Irbid – III	128,219	59,843	68,376
Irbid – IV	186,766	83,206	103,560
Al-Mafraq	109,688	48,421	61,267
Jerash	122,493	55,716	66,777
Ajloun	114,980	51,317	63,663
Kerak	188,801	85,578	103,223
Al Tafilah	63,067	27,835	35,232
Ma'an	59,359	27,683	31,676
Aqaba	63,891	30,987	32,904
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,640,643</b>	<b>2,197,161</b>	<b>2,443,482</b>

### *3.1.2 Jordanian women's participation as a candidate in the parliamentary elections*

The committee set the dates (6, 7, and 8) of October (2020), as the dates for receiving candidacy applications, as the election committees received applications for candidacy, where the number of lists of candidates for membership of the nineteenth Parliament reached (295) lists, whereas, one list of candidates was excluded from the Madaba electoral district due to the failure to complete (3) candidates in the list of candidates as a result of the withdrawal of two candidates from the list before the lists became final, thus, the total number of candidate lists become (294) lists, the highest number of candidate lists was registered in the Kerak electoral district, as the lists reached (20) lists, while the lowest recorded candidate lists were in the Southern Bedouin electoral district, by (4) lists (Table No. 2; The detailed report of the general elections of the Nineteenth Council of (2020) - 10 June 2021).

The number of candidates for the nineteenth Parliament was (1,717), and the highest number of candidates was registered in Kerak electoral district with (182) candidates, and the least was in the Southern Bedouin electoral district with (15) candidates, and the percentage of male candidates was (78.5%) and the percentage of female candidates was (21.5%), the number of candidates by gender, according to the preliminary lists, was about (1,344) for males, at a rate of (79%), and (368) female candidates with a percentage of (21%) (The detailed report of the general elections of the Nineteenth Council of (2020) - 10 June 2021; Al-Musumi, 2011).

Due to the importance of the nomination stage and the required accuracy and for the purposes of ensuring the quality of the process, the committee has prepared an application to receive the registration requests of candidates and to use this electronic application electronically to review the nomination conditions, and the completion of the review through the liaison officers with the relevant authorities, where all the decisions of the committee were issued on (10 October 2020), as the committee rejected (11) a request for nomination, rejected candidates were notified by electronic means on (10 October 2020), and all rejected applicants submitted an appeal to the courts from the day following receiving the committee's

notifications of their refusal, while (5) appeals were accepted, (6) appeals were rejected, bringing the number of candidates after the appeal stage to (1,711) candidates (The detailed report of the general elections of the Nineteenth Council of (2020) - 10 June 2021; Table No. 2).

Referring to what was stated in Paragraph (A) of Article (16) of the Elections Law, the Committee announced the names of the lists of candidates and the names of candidates for the electoral districts whose candidacy applications had been accepted through the Committee's website, and in two local daily newspapers on (13 October 2020), where the courts began receiving voters' appeals against the candidates on (14 October 2020), as the courts received (5) appeals, one appeal was accepted and (4) appeals were rejected, bringing the total number of candidates after the voter appeal stage to (1,710) candidates (The detailed report of the general elections of the Nineteenth Council of (2020) - 10 June 2021; Al-Rawashdeh, & Al-A'rab, 2016).

Whereas, the Independent Election Commission has set the period for receiving withdrawals according to the timetable (10) days before the date of the elections, the Commission received (34) withdrawal requests, as (27) withdrawal requests for males and (7) requests for females, it is noteworthy that among these withdrawn numbers, two cases of death candidates were included, and one list of candidates was excluded due to the failure to complete (3) candidates in the list of candidates as a result of the withdrawal of two candidates from the list before the lists became final (Table No. 2; The detailed report of the general elections of the Nineteenth Council of (2020) - 10 June 2021).

**Table 2. Number of Candidates Withdrawals**

Number of Candidates Withdrawals	
Number of Candidates Withdrawals	34
Number of Male Candidates Withdrawals	27
Number of Female Candidates Withdrawals	3
Number of Candidates (Rejected Candidate list of less than 3 candidates)	2
Number of Candidates (Death Cases)	2

After the withdrawal period, the number of final candidates reached (1,674), the number of male candidates reached (1,314) with a percentage of (78%), and the number of female candidates reached (360) with a percentage of (22%), distributed among the electoral districts (Table No. 3).

**Table 3. The Final Numbers of Candidates (Males and Females)**

The Electoral District	Males	Females	Total
The Capital – I	56	14	70
The Capital – II	93	18	111
The Capital – III	71	27	98
The Capital -IV	58	17	75
The Capital – V	81	18	99
Balqa	142	21	163
Al Zarqa – I	104	26	130
Al Zarqa – II	45	11	56
Madaba	60	16	76
Northern Bedouins	28	15	43
The Middle Bedouins	29	14	43
Southern Bedouins	11	4	15



The Electoral District	Males	Females	Total
Irbid – I	85	19	104
Irbid – II	36	13	49
Irbid – III	37	11	48
Irbid – IV	58	12	7
Al-Mafraq	26	7	33
Jerash	31	8	39
Ajloun	41	16	57
Kerak	136	41	177
Al Tafilah	30	11	41
Ma'an	28	9	37
Aqaba	28	12	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,314</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>1,674</b>

### **3.2 The Representation of The Jordanian women in the Parliament of (2020)**

It is worth noting that Jordanian women were represented in the parliament of (2020) through the women's quota, but they were not represented in parliament through free competition, therefore, this study of the representation of Jordanian women in the parliament of (2020) will address the representation of Jordanian women through the women's quota, and through free competition in electoral districts (El-Baz, 2002).

#### **3.2.1. The Representation of Jordanian Women Through Women's Quota**

Quotas are an electoral system defined in the electoral law to protect and guarantee the rights of minorities to access the political authorities, it is also a kind of positive intervention with the aim of achieving equality and reducing discrimination between different segments of society, especially between men and women, the women's quota system was adopted as one of the temporary special measures to promote gender equality, in addition to increasing women's political participation and representation in all elected corps (Table No. 4; Al-Tarawneh, 2019).

Women won an additional (15) seats reserved for women (the quota for women) in the elections of the 19th Parliament of (2020), according to the table below: (Table No. 4; The final results of the parliamentary elections for members of the 19th Parliament of (2020) -16 November 2020).

**Table 4. Names of the Winners of The Additional Seats Reserved For Women (Women's Quota).**

Sr.	Governorate	Electoral District	Candidate List Name	List No.	Total Voters For The List	Candidate Name	Total Voters For The Candidate	Seat Category	Winner Seat Type
1	Capital	The Capital – I	Al-Eslah Al-Watani	1	9,368	Mayada Ibrahim Mustafa Ibrahim	6,356	Muslim	Women Quota
2	Irbid	Irbid – II	Al-Adalah	4	13,901	Amal Dhaif Allah Salim Al-Bashir	9,771	Muslim	Women Quota
3	Balqa	Balqa	Al-Karameh	12	9,703	Dina Awni Mohamed Al-Bashir	4,341	Muslim	Women Quota
4	Kerak	Kerak	Al-Eslah	12	10,625	Marwa Abdel Karim Abdel Hamid Al-Soub	3,235	Muslim	Women Quota

Sr.	Governorate	Electoral District	Candidate List Name	List No.	Total Voters For The List	Candidate Name	Total Voters For The Candidate	Seat Category	Winner Seat Type
5	Ma'an	Ma'an	Petra	9	4,277	Aisha Ahmed Mohammed Al-Hasanat	3,366	Muslim	Women Quota
6	Al Zarqa	Al Zarqa – II	Al-Mustaqbal Al-Zarqa	12	5,546	Rahaq Muhammad Salim Al-Zawahra	3,840	Muslim	Women Quota
7	Al-Mafraq	Al-Mafraq	Al Qouds Arabiyah	5	9,026	Rima Mohammed Al-Khalaf Abu Al-Eis	5,729	Muslim	Women Quota
8	Al Tafilah	Al Tafilah	Al-Mithaq	2	3,009	Islam Saleh Madroush Al Tabashat	1,926	Muslim	Women Quota
9	Madaba	Madaba	Al-Wafa'a	2	4,900	Asmaa Saleh Mahmoud Al-Rawahneh	3,566	Muslim	Women Quota
10	Jerash	Jerash	Ahel Al-Azem	3	13,127	Fayza Ahmed Hussein Al-Shehab	3,900	Muslim	Women Quota
11	Ajloun	Ajloun	Al-Ta'awoun	1	9,891	Safaa Abdullah Mohammed Al Momani	4,817	Muslim	Women Quota
12	Aqaba	Aqaba	Al-Nashama	4	4,135	Rawa'ah Suleiman Ahmed Al-Gharabli	2,655	Muslim	Women Quota
13	Northern Bedouins	Northern Bedouins	Al-Moa'akhah	9	7,715	Hadia Muhammad Elias Sarhan	4,780	Muslim	Women Quota
14	The Middle Bedouins	The Middle Bedouins	Al-Nashama	11	6,446	Abeer Abdullah Hraithan Al-Jabour	2,998	Muslim	Women Quota
15	Southern Bedouins	Southern Bedouins	Al-Wafa'a	4	14,502	Zainab Salameh Salman Al Musa	6,814	Muslim	Women Quota

### 3.2.2 The Representation of Jordanian Women Through Free Competition for The Electoral Districts

It should be noted that Jordanian women are not represented in the 19th parliament of (2020) through free competition for electoral districts, in contrast to the previous parliamentary elections for the Parliament, where Jordanian women were represented through free competition in the electoral districts (The final results of the parliamentary elections for members of the 19th Parliament of (2020) -16 November 2020; Jabir & Al-Adwan, 2017).

Some jurisprudence believes that the solution to this problem by enhancing the representation of women in general through free competition in electoral districts by activating the role of political parties, so that the party has the least number of women to ensure their presence in Parliament and access for membership in Parliament (Hayes, 2017; Geha, 2019).

Therefore, it can be said that it becomes necessary to have a women's quota to ensure that the minimum number of women reaches the Jordanian parliament, with the need to raise awareness among voters of the need to select the right person regardless the gender, whether male or female, so that the previous juristic approach is accepted and supported in the event of a desire to form a parliamentary government based on the presence of two or more active parties in society so

that each party has a minimum number of women that cannot be reduced, therefore, political parties may support the presence of women in Parliament. (Mufti and Jalalzai, 2021; Goss, 2003).

#### **4. Conclusion**

The intended by women's political participation, is granting women the right to participate in elections, vote and candidacy for parliamentary elections, and allocate seats for them in the Parliament to ensure their access to Parliament.

Referring to the text of Article (6/1) of the Constitution, it is noted that Jordanian and Jordanian women include every Jordanian, male or female, without distinction between them in rights and duties, even if they differ in race, language or religion, and the laws issued pursuant to this constitution may not affect the essence of these rights and freedom or its basics, and the word "Jordanian" in Article (3) of Parliamentary Elections Law grants every Jordanian, male or female, who has reached the age of eighteen, ninety days before the date set for election, the right to elect members of the Parliament and without any discrimination among Jordanians and the word "Jordanian" in Articles (67/1 and 75/1) of the Jordanian Constitution includes every Jordanian, whether man or woman, without discrimination between them in rights and duties, as Jordanian women were granted the right to candidacy for parliamentary elections.

##### **4.1. Results**

The provisions of Articles (8/b, 9/d/2, 10, 18, 46/a/4, 48/b, 50/b, and 54/b) of Parliament's election law stipulated provisions for the mechanism of women's candidacy for parliamentary elections, and the law stipulated the establishment of special seats for women called (women's quota), where (15) fifteen seats were determined for them equal to the number of governorates in the Kingdom, and how to determine the winner of the seat allotted for women, the mechanism for announcing the names of the winners in Parliament, and addressing the vacancy of the seat allotted for women in the Parliament.

Parliament Election Law granted Jordanian women the right to vote for membership of the Parliament, so that Jordanian women participated as voters and candidates in the elections of the nineteenth Parliament of (2020), and the percentage of voters by gender according to the final voter lists in the nineteenth Jordanian parliamentary elections of (2020) was (47%) for males, and (53%) for females, and the number of final candidates in the parliamentary elections (2020) for the Nineteenth Council reached (1674), where the number of male candidates reached (1314) with a percentage of (78%), while the number of female candidates reached (360) with a percentage of (22%) distributed over the constituencies.

The number of women who won additional seats in the parliamentary elections of (2020) for the nineteenth Parliament allocated for women (the women's quota) was fifteen (15) winners.

##### **4.2. Recommendations**

The necessity of amending the Jordanian constitution by changing the title of Chapter Two of the constitution to be "Rights and Duties of Jordanians, Males and Females," so that this change affirms the principle of equality between Jordanian males and females in the enjoyment of the constitution rights.

The need to amend the Jordanian constitution by adding a new paragraph to Article VI of the constitution so that the proposed new text states: "The state guarantees the empowerment of women and supports them to play an active role in the development of society in a way that guarantees equal opportunities on the basis of justice and equity and protects them from all forms of violence and discrimination." and the need for the competent authorities in Jordan to review the Parliamentary Elections Law its periodically.

The necessity of amending Parliamentary Elections Law to specify a quota for women in the seats allocated to Circassians, Chechens and Christians to ensure equal rights between men and women.

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