المجلة العربية لعلم الترجمة
Arabic Journal for Translation Studies
Vol. 5 / N° 17 (2026)
ISSN: 2750-6142
OPEN ACCESS

The Legislative Elections of July 02, 2026, in Algeria: A Reading of the Results and Outcomes

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Received	Accepted	Published online
20/7/2026	20/10/2026	2/11/2026

doi: 10.63939/ajts.gg15qp77

Cite this article as: Djaafri, A., & Laabed, H. (2026). The Legislative Elections of July 02, 2026, in Algeria: A Reading of the Results and Outcomes. *Arabic Journal for Translation Studies, 5*(16), 161-178. https://doi.org/10.63939/ajts.gg15qp77

Abstract

Elections represent one of the most critical mechanisms relied upon by ruling elites to institutionalize democratic thought within their political systems. They serve as the primary gateway for institutional building and the fundamental mechanism that allows citizens to express their will by selecting their representatives in the state's political institutions. This dynamic was witnessed in Algeria on July 2, 2026, through the legislative elections held under stable social and political conditions. Hundreds of candidates competed within both partisan and independent lists, presenting their platforms and orientations to secure a seat within the legislative body. Accordingly, this research paper attempts to examine the Algerian legislative elections of July 2, 2026, the circumstances surrounding their organization, the resulting outcomes, and their impact on the institutional framework of the Algerian political system.

Keywords: Elections, Democracy, Institutional Building, Legislative Elections, Algeria

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Introduction

Elections serve as the primary institutional vehicle through which citizens exercise political agency and articulate popular sovereignty within representative councils. As an indispensable cornerstone of democratic consolidation, the electoral process functions as an empirical gauge for democratic depth and a catalyst for institutionalizing good governance, principally by codifying the peaceful transition of power through transparent, competitive contests. Furthermore, the typological architecture of these contests is structurally contingent upon the state's constitutional design and electoral engineering, bifurcating into presidential, legislative, and sub-national ballots, as well as plebiscites; each operating as a distinct modality to optimize civic integration into the polity.

The legislative elections of July 2, 2026, represent a pivotal juncture in Algeria's electoral history, signaling the eighth parliamentary iteration since the 1989 pluralistic transition and the second following the transformative 2019 popular Hirak. Synthesizing the dynamics of the Algerian polity, these elections serve as the definitive gateway for shaping the National People's Assembly (the lower legislative chamber). Beyond its primary constitutional prerogative of statutory enactment regulating the political system, this institution empowers popular representatives to bridge the periphery-center gap by channeling constituent anxieties into the policy-making sphere, while simultaneously institutionalizing accountability through systematic oversight of the executive's policy agendas.

Therefore, through this research paper, we will attempt to address the reality of the legislative elections witnessed in Algeria on July 2, 2026, alongside an analytical reading of their results and the outcomes that will reflect on the institutional building of the Algerian political system, by answering the following main problem:

How did the results of the July 02, 2026 legislative elections contribute to the institutional building of the Algerian political system?

To answer this problem, we have divided this study into the following axes:

- **Theme I:** Elections as a Mechanism for Democratic Consolidation
- **Theme II:** The General Context of the July 2, 2026 Legislative Elections in Algeria
- **Theme III:** A Reading of the Election Results and Their Impact on the Institutional Structure of the Algerian Political System

Axis 1: Elections as a Mechanism for Democratic Consolidation

1. The Concept of Elections and Their Importance

Linguistic Definition

Linguistically, election means selection or picking. From it, "he elected the thing" means he chose and extracted it (Al-Massari, 2019, p. 25). The plural form *Nukhab* (elites) refers to the chosen individuals among people. An elite represents the select choice of anything; thus, it is said, "he came among the *Nukhab* of his companions," meaning the

best of them. It is also stated in Arabic lexicons that *Intikhab* is a verbal noun derived from *Intakhaba* (he elected), *Yantakhibu* (he elects). The active participle is *Muntakhib* (voter/elector). To elect someone means to vote in their favor, choose them, and cast a vote for them. Ultimately, election is the act of choosing (Mansour, 2022, p. 334).

Idiomatic Definition

Terminologically, an election is a legal procedure whose system, timing, and location are determined by a constitution or a regulation. By virtue of this procedure, one or more individuals are chosen to head or gain membership in a council, a syndicate, a seminar, or similar bodies. Election represents the method used to select individuals to occupy specific positions based on voters' choices. On the other hand, election is considered the fundamental rule of the democratic system (Al-Massari, 2019, p. 25), as it is the tool that enables the democratic selection of rulers.

The aforementioned definitions conceptualize the phenomenon of elections through two distinct analytical lenses:

A. **The De Jure (Legal-Normative) Perspective:** This dimension prioritizes codification, constitutional mandates, and regulatory frameworks as the primary instruments structuring the electoral process. It posits that statutory articles define the ontological nature of elections and dictate the parameters governing their execution.
B. **The De Facto (Empirical-Procedural) Perspective:** This approach operationalizes elections as the foundational catalyst for democratic praxis. Within this paradigm, systemic democratization is empirically measured by the degree of institutional fidelity to regulatory frameworks, thereby establishing elections as the primary conduit for the peaceful transition of power.

Furthermore, Al-Musallamani (as cited in Abdel-Aal, 2017, p. 17) conceptualizes the electoral mechanism as a representative delegation wherein a minoritarian cadre is selected to embody the majoritarian populace within decision-making structures. This formulation explicitly isolates two quintessential agency-holders: the candidates and the electorate. Consequently, Al-Musallamani's framework underscores the primacy of these core stakeholders, demonstrating that the presence of both candidacy and suffrage is an ontological prerequisite for the manifestation of any electoral process.

Types of Elections

In many political systems, elections are categorized into the following distinct forms:

First: According to the Institutional Criterion

Under this framework, elections are classified based on the specific institutions to be established, and they are divided into:

- **Presidential Elections:** The mechanism through which the Head of State; the supreme authority in the country is elected. Political systems vary in their electoral methods; the President may be elected **directly** by the citizenry, who

choose from among the candidates via an absolute majority, or **indirectly** through popular representatives within elected bodies, most commonly the Parliament.

- **Legislative Elections:** The process by which citizens **directly** elect their representatives to the legislative body (Parliament). These representatives are tasked with articulating public concerns, advocating for voter interests, and enacting legislation on their behalf.
- **Local Elections:** Ballots conducted at the sub-national level, enabling members of a local community to choose their representatives within municipal or regional councils (**"Wilaya" / Provincial Councils**). These bodies are responsible for local governance and regional development initiatives, meaning these elections are strictly confined to a defined geographical jurisdiction.
- **Professional and Trade Union Elections:** Contests held within union branches and professional bodies to select officials across administrative apparatuses and institutions. These elected members are mandated to defend the labor rights and professional interests of the workers and employees within their respective sectors.

2. Typology Based on the Electoral Methodology Criterion

Under this analytical framework, electoral systems are categorized according to their operational voting modalities, structurally bifurcating into:

- **Direct and Indirect Electoral Modalities:** Direct elections empower the electorate to exercise unmediated suffrage, casting ballots directly for legislative and executive representatives without intermediary delegation. Conversely, indirect elections employ a multi-tiered (typically two-tiered) voting architecture; the general electorate selects a college of electors or delegates, who subsequently appoint the final representatives. This indirect configuration is institutionalized across several comparative contexts, including Algeria for the constitution of the Council of the Nation (the Upper House), France for the Senate elections, and the United States within its presidential primary mechanisms (Douzi, 2019, p. 39).
- **Secret and Public Balloting:** Secret balloting requires voters to choose their representatives in complete privacy, shielded from public view, ensuring no external interference or prior knowledge of their electoral preference and ultimate decision. This safeguard protects voters from potential duress that could compromise their free choice. In contrast, public balloting requires voters to openly declare their choice, a method typically observed during votes on draft bills within parliaments (Douzi, 2019, p. 40).
- **Single-Member District (Individual) and Party-List Systems:** In a single-member system, the state is divided into small, equally proportioned electoral districts, each represented by a single seat; the voter selects one candidate from

among those running for that specific seat. In a party-list system, voting is conducted based on slates offered to the electorate, with each list comprising a group of candidates. The list system is further categorized into: **Closed Lists**, where voters cannot modify the ballot and must accept or reject the entire list as a whole; **Open Lists**, where voters can freely cast preference votes for specific candidates within their chosen list; and **Flexible (Preference-based Closed) Lists**, which allow voters to alter the internal ranking of names on their chosen list without adding or deleting any candidates. (Yaiche Tammam, 2016, p. 74)

3. The Structural Nexus Between Elections and Democratic Consolidation

The ontological relationship between elections and democracy is fundamentally symbiotic; indeed, substantive democracy is conceptually untenable without periodic, competitive ballots that authentically translate popular sovereignty into institutional governance. Consequently, electoral integrity serves as an empirical benchmark for measuring the depth of democratic consolidation. However, the operational efficacy of the ballot box is contextually contingent upon the structural nature of the political regime and its prevailing electoral engineering (Abdul-Redha, 2022, p. 144).

Intellectual Enrichment: Crucially, a regime's adoption of electoral mechanisms does not prima facie signal a trajectory toward democratization. This analytical distinction underscores that while elections are a necessary condition for democracy, they are not a sufficient structural guarantee. Since the post-Cold War systemic shift of the 1990s, numerous hybrid and competitive authoritarian regimes have institutionalized multi-tiered elections to garner external legitimacy. Yet, these processes frequently degenerate into electoralism—a procedural facade devoid of substantive democratic pillars such as the rule of law, institutional checks and balances, and a vibrant civil society. Therefore, democratic transition is only verified when elections transcend mere proceduralism to embody non-negotiable democratic standards that challenge the pre-existing power monopolies of the ruling elites (Abdul-Redha, 2022, p. 145).

Axis 2: The General Context of the July 2, 2026 Legislative Elections in Algeria

The general context surrounding the legislative elections held on July 02, 2026, was characterized by relative stability. Nationally, Algeria implemented a new administrative division, elevating ten delegated sub-prefectures (*Wilayas Déléguées*) to full-fledged provinces (*Wilayas*) with plenary powers, pursuant to Decree No. 26-06 dated Shawwal 16, 1447 AH, corresponding to April 04, 2026. Consequently, the total number of provinces-acting as electoral districts-rose to 69 *Wilayas*, encompassing 1541 municipalities (Law No 26-06, 2026, p. 06), each allocated parliamentary seats. This administrative shift prompted a redistribution of seats and adjusted parliamentary representation across numerous provinces. Law No. 26-07 dated Shawwal 20, 1447 AH,

corresponding to April 18, 2026, subsequently defined the electoral districts and the number of seats to be contested in the People's National Assembly, which totals 407 seats. (Law No 26-07, 2026, p. 05)

The enactment of Organic Law No. 21-01 relative to the Electoral System introduced substantial amendments designed to strengthen the electoral process. It fortified the mandate of the National Independent Election Authority (*ANIE*), strictly defining its role as an investigative and oversight body. Conversely, the logistical preparations for the elections were institutionalized as the core responsibility of administrative bodies, primarily the Ministry of the Interior, Local Authorities, and National Planning. Furthermore, the amendments mandated periodic updates to the electoral rolls to guarantee registration accuracy, regulated election campaigns within a clear chronological timeline, enforced non-discrimination among contenders, and mandated greater transparency in campaign financing. The revised law also prioritized youth and female political inclusion, requiring a 20% quota for youth and a minimum 30% quota for women on electoral lists (Bouhania, 2026, p. 21). By establishing clearer and more precise legal eligibility criteria, access to the electoral contest was decoupled from traditional patronage networks and financial influence. This shift advanced the principle of equal opportunity, facilitating the emergence of new political actors and the injection of fresh elites into state institutions. Additionally, more precise mathematical mechanisms were introduced for seat allocation based on demographic density per district, thereby enhancing proportional equity.

Socioeconomically, the domestic landscape remained stable due to continuous state intervention aimed at safeguarding public welfare, particularly for low-income brackets, through substantial wage hikes for civil servants, retirees, and workers. The ruling elites actively raised the minimum wage (*SNMG*) for low-income laborers and employees a trajectory that remains a foundational cornerstone of Algeria's domestic policy. Concurrently, the state guaranteed the supply of essential consumer goods to the domestic market while rigorously combating all forms of speculation and fraud to preserve social peace. This prevailing social climate on the eve of the legislative elections provided a constructive environment for candidates to formulate their platforms. It enabled them to address systemic socioeconomic imbalances, ranging from living standards and infrastructure deficits to local development projects, while facilitating an evaluation of the expiring legislative term (2021–2026).

The Electoral Campaign for the Legislative Elections of July 02, 2026

Initiated on June 09, 2026, the electoral campaign for the legislative elections of July 02, 2026, extended over a twenty-one-day statutory period as mandated by the electoral framework, providing a legal window for candidates to advance their political agendas. From a conceptual standpoint, the campaign represents a definitive temporal anchor within the electoral process, functioning as the immediate prelude to the ballot. Throughout this interval, political actors systematically engage the citizenry, leveraging persuasive techniques to condition voting behavior and secure electoral mandates within

representative bodies. The campaign thus operates as a structured, sustained, and strategic promotional apparatus managed by candidates or political organizations. By capitalizing on communication networks, media outlets, and strategic messaging, these actors attempt to align the electorate's choices with specific candidate or party list trajectories (Al-Amarat, 2020, p. 35). To dissect these dynamics, this study introduces an empirical evaluation of the political communication vectors utilized during the campaign, the structural discourse adopted by candidates, and the operational mechanisms deployment to propagate their platforms.

A. The Nature of Platforms Adopted by Candidates and Political Parties

An electoral platform constitutes a cohesive framework of values, principles, and ideological tenets that guide a candidate's political conduct, outlining the prospective public services and policy implementations they pledge to deliver upon election (Khairi, 2018, p. 300). Functioning as a strategic roadmap, it addresses the core issues occupying the electorate's priorities during a specific electoral cycle. Consequently, (Africa)., 2021, p. 03) the platforms presented by candidates for the legislative elections held on July 02, 2026, exhibited variance in several aspects; nevertheless, the vast majority converged on socioeconomic dimensions and localized regional development frameworks (*Development Local*) tailored to each of the country's provinces (*Wilayas*). Electoral platforms serve as the primary political message through which candidates seek to persuade voters to cast ballots in their favor. Accordingly, most platforms advocated by contenders during the campaign were structurally rooted in the empirical socioeconomic realities experienced by the constituents within their respective electoral districts.

The social dimension represents a highly sensitive leverage point utilized by candidates to resonate with voters and secure their support, as it is intrinsically linked to their daily lives and societal welfare. Key themes, such as regional development, investment promotion, employment creation, fostering youth competencies, and expanding female political representation dominated the political discourse. Furthermore, candidates emphasized the legislative oversight role of parliamentarians by proposing concrete policy solutions to systemic issues that the outgoing legislative assembly (2021–2026) had failed to resolve. This thematic focus is entirely consistent with the structural nature of legislative elections, which center on electing representatives mandated to articulate and convey the constituent grievances and structural challenges faced by the populace within their districts.

B. The Nature of Political Discourse Employed During the Legislative Elections of July 02, 2026

Political discourse constitutes the fundamental instrument upon which candidates and ruling elites rely to elucidate their electoral platforms. As defined by Philippe Breton, political discourse is a human activity that assumes multifaceted communicative modalities and diverse mediums, aiming to persuade an individual, an auditor, or a public

to adopt a certain stance or share a particular opinion (Boubekri, 2013, p. 168). It is, inherently, a discourse of political substance or one that encapsulates political ideas, addressed to an intended recipient to influence them and convince them of its content. (Ukasha, 2004, p. 45)

Accordingly, the political discourse during the July 2, 2026 legislative campaign was predominantly centered on driving mass voter turnout and securing ballots. Across various campaign rallies, political parties and candidates prioritized appeals for high participation over the articulation of electoral platforms; the very cornerstone of impactful political discourse. Consequently, the political rhetoric appeared superficial, failing to achieve the standard of effective political communication. Emphasizing concrete programs and policy plans designed to defend societal interests and introduce strategic updates is what empowers political discourse; it transforms voter turnout into a natural byproduct of the electorate's genuine conviction in a specific candidate or party list. This fundamental dimension was fundamentally lacking in the political rhetoric deployed by candidates during these legislative elections.

Consequently, this communicative failure reduced the electoral rhetoric to a superficial spectacle, exposing the existential crisis of contemporary political discourse which failed to achieve communicative efficacy. Philosophically, the vitality of democratic discourse is ontologically dependent upon the presentation of rigorous, executable platforms and systemic reforms aimed at advancing the commonwealth. It is this programmatic depth that intellectualizes the electoral contest, rendering voter turnout an act of conscious political agency predicated on genuine normative alignment. However, within the empirical theater of these legislative elections, this vital dimension was entirely evacuated. The candidates' discourses degenerated into a form of political commodification devoid of programmatic substance, thereby failing to cultivate the subjective conviction necessary to transform the electorate from passive observers into active participants in the polity.

On the other hand, the slogan adopted by the National Independent Authority for Elections (ANIE), namely: *"Be a Partner and an Actor in Decision-Making: Vote and Participate,"* aligned significantly with the same trajectory, which primarily manifested in the call for massive participation in this electoral milestone. This slogan emphasized the imperative of participation through voting, which is conceived as the primary gateway to activating the citizen’s role in shaping political decisions. This is theoretically achieved through the optimal selection of representatives in the legislative branch, which is tasked with enacting legislation and monitoring the executive bwranch's actions.

From a third epistemological perspective, political incumbents leverages their prior tenure within elected councils; spanning sub-national (municipal and provincial) and national tiers (the National People's Assembly and the Council of the Nation) to orchestrate a discourse centered on retrospective accountability and empirical efficacy. Within this rhetorical framework, legacy achievements are operationalized not merely as historic records, but as a form of accumulated political and symbolic capital designed to structure voter preferences. By converting past administrative performance into a

foundational baseline, these candidates utilize pragmatist signaling to mitigate the voter's cognitive uncertainty. Philosophically, this strategy shifts the electoral paradigm from speculative programmatic promises to verifiable, real-world utility, positioning the incumbent's field performance as the ultimate empirical metric for shaping civic conviction and validating political agency.

C. Mechanisms Adopted by Candidates to Elucidate Their Programs

The communicative mechanisms employed by candidates to canvas voters and solicit their ballots varied, manifesting as follows:

- **Electoral Rallies:** Electoral rallies organized by candidates during election campaigns serve as platforms that facilitate direct confrontation with their electorate. Through these venues, candidates present their electoral programs and showcase their capacity to deliver optimal public services. Such rallies offer a pristine opportunity for the candidate to expound upon their electoral platform firsthand before citizens. (Al-Dirbas, 2021, p. 29) Consequently, they constitute one of the primary mechanisms upon which candidates rely to bolster their public image and political presence among the masses. This importance is amplified by the fact that these rallies are predominantly animated by the political party's Secretary-General or high-ranking cadres from the national bureau, thereby conferring a substantial mass attendance upon the electoral gathering.
- Indeed, the legislative elections of July 02 in Algeria witnessed numerous electoral gatherings, exceeding 3,900 public rallies across various provinces of the country, during which candidates exploited all venues designated for free expression. However, the fundamental challenge confronting candidates during these rallies was mass political apathy and low voter turnout. Most electoral gatherings during these legislative elections suffered from a conspicuous absence of voters. This phenomenon is attributable to several considerations, notably the ineffectiveness of the adopted political discourse; which focused heavily on inducing electoral participation rather than elucidating programs coupled with the widening chasm that the Algerian voter perceives between discourse and political practice. Consequently, this crisis of confidence compelled candidates to hold their rallies within indoor halls and enclosed spaces rather than open public squares.
- **Field Visits (Proximate Campaigning):** Field and community visits refer to those field tours undertaken by candidates to neighborhoods, villages, marketplaces, streets, cafes, and various public spaces where citizens congregate. The objective is to establish proximity and ascertain the challenges confronting them. Candidates dedicated these field interactions to meeting diverse societal strata to explain the adopted voting mechanism. Notably, the Algerian electoral system following the Hirak movement underwent a paradigm shift in its voting method,

transitioning from a closed-list system to an open-list proportional representation system. Accordingly, candidates prioritized in their field tours explaining the optimal method of casting ballots, emphasizing the selection of a specific candidate over others within the same list. This dynamic inherently mirrored the acute intra-list competition among candidates running under the same electoral banner.

- **Utilization of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs):** Media and communication tools represent some of the most pivotal and widely utilized mechanisms in electoral campaigns, owing to their efficacy and distinct features, amplified by the technological evolution sweeping across most media platforms. Among the communication mediums most extensively deployed during the legislative campaign of July 02, 2026, social networking sites predominantly Facebook stood out. The political exploitation of Facebook has significantly evolved globally since Barack Obama's landmark presidential campaign in the United States, subsequently proliferating across most global electoral campaigns. This widespread adoption is due to its intrinsic characteristics, such as user-friendliness, rapid dissemination across various societal strata, and the live-streaming feature documenting candidates' activities during their campaigns. Consequently, the vast majority of candidates maintained dedicated campaign accounts and pages to broadcast all electoral activities, including rallies, field visits, photographs, campaign posters, and other promotional events
- Alongside social networking sites, traditional media and communication channels-namely radio and television played a pivotal role. The Algerian electoral system guarantees all candidates equal access to public media and communication outlets, applies equally to candidates representing political parties and those running on independent lists (Ordinance No. 21-01 of March 10, 2021, p. 16). Accordingly, the Public Establishment of Algerian Television allocated four Algerian radio channels and six public television channels, in addition to local radio stations, all dedicated to presenting and elucidating electoral platforms, pursuant to the provisions of Article 78 of the Organic Law Regulatory of the Electoral System.
- Among the innovative communication mechanisms deployed in these legislative elections, candidates harnessed Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools for the first time in the history of Algerian elections. This was aimed at marketing their images and activities on social media pages, leveraging the distinct capabilities of AI applications, such as high efficiency in designing and producing images, video excerpts, and documentation of field visits.
- Concurrently, some candidates utilized podcasting techniques to showcase their programs, broadcasting them on social media platforms in the form of talk-show episodes. In these sessions, the candidate was hosted to address their core aspirations, platforms, and future visions in the event of winning the electoral

contest. This novel approach adopted by candidates emulates the talk shows produced by Western media during electoral cycles, such as in the United States and France countries that have made advanced strides in the realm of political marketing. This technique played a substantial role in bringing candidates closer to the voting public and providing a clearer elucidation of their visions for the legislative elections contested by Algeria on July 02, 2026

Axis 3: A Reading of the Election Results and Their Impact on the Institutional Structure of the Algerian Political System

The curtain fell on the legislative elections on July 2, 2026, at 8:00 PM across the entire national network of 13,664 polling centers and 63,385 polling stations. According to the final results certified by the Constitutional Court, voter turnout reached 21.24%, marking a regression from the 23% recorded during the 2021 legislative cycle. This contraction stems from multiple variables, chiefly the electoral timeline; holding the ballot in July; the peak of summer heat disincentivized voters, particularly in the southern regions which historically boast robust participation figures. Structurally, the declining participation underscores that political communication during the campaign trail lacked the efficacy required to catalyze voter engagement.

In political sociology, the success of political communication is directly indexed by turnout; persuasive communication mobilizes the electorate toward the ballot box, whereas its failure induces apathy. The rhetorical focus dominating the campaign was overwhelmingly centered on driving voter turnout, thereby sidelining substantive policy platforms and the intrinsic value of elections as a cornerstone of democratic consolidation. Moreover, candidates struggled to market themselves effectively to inspire electoral confidence. Ultimately, this confluence of factors precipitated the distinct drop in voter turnout observed in this legislative cycle."

the final results, as ratified and officially proclaimed by the Constitutional Court, were distributed as follows (The Constitutional Court, 2026, pp. 07-08)**:**

No.	Political Party / Electoral List	Seats Won (2026)	Seats Won (2021)	Net Change (Seats)	Status / Trend
01	National Liberation Front (FLN)	**91**	**98**	-7	Decline
02	National Democratic Rally (RND)	**74**	**58**	+16	Significant Growth
03	Future Front (El-Moustakbal)	**56**	**48**	+8	Growth
04	Movement of Society for Peace (MSP)	**43**	**65**	-22	Significant Decline
05	National Construction Movement (El-Binaa)	**40**	**39**	+1	Stagnant
06	People's Voice Party (Sawt El-Chaab)	**16**	**03**	+13	Rapid Growth
07	Socialist Forces Front (FFS)	**12**	/	+12	New Entry (Return)
08	New Dawn Party (El-Fadjr El-Jadid)	**06**	**02**	+4	Growth

09	Freedom and Justice Party	**06**	**02**	+4	Growth
10	El-Karama Party	**05**	**01**	+4	Growth
11	Front for Justice and Development (FJD)	**04**	**02**	+2	Growth
12	Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD)	**04**	/	+4	New Entry (Return)
13	Tajamou Amel El Djazair (TAJ)	**03**	/	+3	New Entry
14	Workers' Party (PT)	**03**	/	+3	New Entry (Return)
15	New Generation (Jil Jadid)	**03**	**01**	+2	Growth
16	Ennahda Movement	**02**	/	+2	New Entry
17	New Algeria Front (FJA)	**01**	**01**	0	Stagnant
18	National Democratic Alliance (ANR)	**01**	/	+1	New Entry
19	Front of Good Governance	**01**	**02**	-1	Decline
20	Front of Independent Citizens	**01**	/	+1	New Entry
21	Algerian Renewal Party (PRA)	**01**	/	+1	New Entry
22	National Unity and Development Party	**01**	/	+1	New Entry
23	Independent Lists (Al-Ahrar)	**33**	**80**	-47	Severe Collapse
-	**Total Seats**	**407**	**407**	**0**	**Consolidated**

Table 01: Comparative Distribution of Seats in the National People's Assembly Between the 2021 and 2026 Legislative Elections

From the comprehensive table above, it is evident that national parties have maintained their leadership within the Algerian political landscape. However, no single political formation secured an absolute parliamentary majority. This fragmented configuration grants the President of the Republic full latitude and political comfort in appointing a Prime Minister, pursuant to Article 103 of the 2020 Algerian Constitution, which stipulates: *"The Government shall be led by a Prime Minister if the legislative elections result in a presidential majority. The Government shall be led by a Head of Government if the legislative elections result in a parliamentary majority. The Government shall consist of the Prime Minister or the Head of Government, as the case may be, and the ministers who compose it."* (Constitution of Algeria, 2020, p. 25)This constitutional mechanism clearly demonstrates that these legislative elections preserved the institutional framework established after the 2021 legislative ballot, yielding no structural transformation in the political architecture of the Algerian system.

On the level of specific party performances, the National Liberation Front (FLN) maintained its vanguard position, leading the National People's Assembly with 91 seats marking a slight decrease of 7 seats compared to the 2021 elections, where it captured nearly 98 seats. Concurrently, the National Democratic Rally (RND) advanced to second place with 74 seats, rebounding significantly from its fourth-place finish in 2021 with 58 seats. The Future Front (El-Moustakbal) secured the third position with 56 seats, climbing from fifth place in the 2021 legislative elections where it held 48 seats. These outcomes are heavily underpinned by the solid grassroots base that national parties historically enjoy

in Algeria, enabling them to canvas and harvest seats across most electoral districts at an average rate of one or two seats per constituency.

As for the Islamist current represented by the Movement of Society for Peace (MSP), the National Construction Movement (El-Binaa), the Ennahda Movement, and the Front for Justice and Development (FJD), its performance witnessed a noticeable regression in the current legislative elections. The Movement of Society for Peace (MSP) secured 43 seats, dropping to fourth place after having ranked third in the 2021 elections with 65 seats, marking a significant loss of 22 seats in the present ballot. Conversely, the National Construction Movement (El-Binaa) harvested 40 seats compared to 39 seats in the 2021 elections, indicating that El-Binaa successfully maintained its parliamentary weight within the National People's Assembly. Meanwhile, the Front for Justice and Development (FJD) obtained only two seats, a decrease of two seats from the 2021 elections where it held 4 seats. The Ennahda Movement, which boycotted or did not contest the 2021 elections, managed to secure two seats.

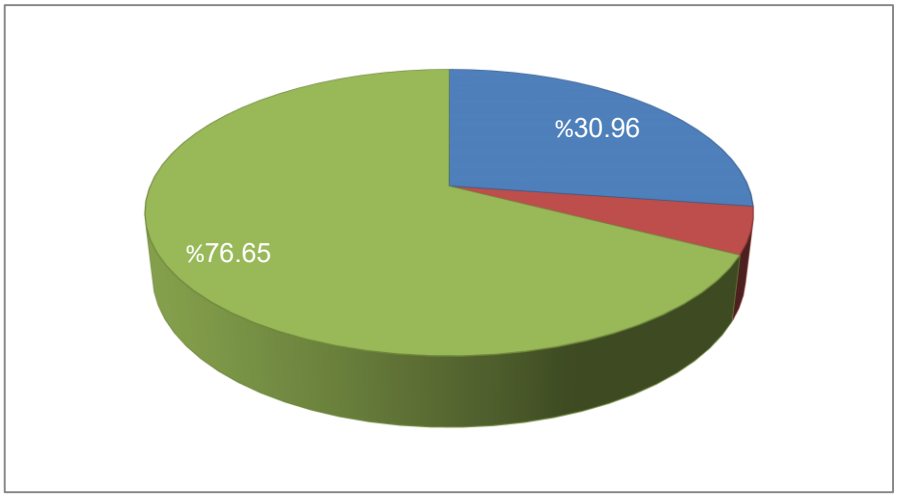
This downturn experienced by the majority of Islamist parties is primarily attributable to the widespread electoral apathy that characterized the recent legislative elections. Although the decline in voter turnout negatively affected all participating party lists and formations, its repercussions were disproportionately severe for the electoral base of Islamist parties. Furthermore, Islamist currents in Algeria are grappling with an internal structural crisis, characterized by factionalism and the splintering of Islamist forces into competing partisan factions. This fragmentation has led to decay in organizational momentum and a conspicuous absence of major political initiatives. Additionally, their electoral discourse appeared less capable of absorbing the social transformations sweeping through Algerian society, particularly among the youth whose priorities have shifted toward employment, education, and housing. All these interconnected factors contributed to the dispersion of votes among Islamist parties that share the same ideology, reference, and platform, yet fiercely compete against one another. (Lahouazi, 2026)

As for the independent lists, their performance witnessed a severe decline, securing approximately 33 seats compared to the 2021 legislative elections, where they captured nearly 80 seats, ranking second. This regression is primarily attributable to the sharp contraction that characterized the candidacy process; the number of lists submitted to the National Independent Authority for Elections (ANIE) for the ballot of July 02, 2026, was limited to 144 lists, in stark contrast to the 1,244 lists submitted in 2021, of which 1,208 were validated. In the 2026 legislative elections, only 131 independent lists were validated, representing a mere 16.5% of the total electoral lists inside the country and abroad. This quantitative reduction implies that independent lists did not enter the race with the same numerical weight as in 2021, which directly eroded their aggregate electoral base in 2026.

From another epistemological vantage point, independent lists suffer from an inherent incapacity for institutional structuring within the legislative architecture. This structural deficit was empirically validated following the 2021 legislative cycle, where numerous independent lawmakers within the National People’s Assembly swiftly underwent a

process of partisan absorption, integrating into pre-existing, highly structured blocs. Philosophically, this phenomenon underscores the perils of *atomized pluralism*; independent actors inherently lack the organizational scaffolding, systematic ideologies, normative axioms, and historical path-dependencies that institutionalized political parties possess. Deprived of these structural anchors, these legislators lack the collective memory and experiential maturity required to navigate the Byzantine complexities of the polity. Consequently, their rapid capitulation to the executive agenda; specifically through the ritualistic declaration of allegiance to the President's program exposes a profound ontological contradiction. This political mobility effectively illustrates a calculated detachment from their pristine campaign pledges, morphing into a pragmatic strategy of elite co-optation that betrays the very essence of representative mandate.

The proportion of parliamentary seats by gender and educational attainment



- **Youth representation rate : 30.96 ◦/°**
- **Women's representation rate : 6.14 ◦/°**
- **University graduates' representation rate : 76.65 ◦/°**
- **Source:** Compiled by the researcher based on the final results proclaimed by the Constitutional Court.

According to the data proclaimed by the Constitutional Court, youth representation (members under the age of 40) in the National People's Assembly reached 126 seats, accounting for 30.96% of the parliamentary body. This marks a slight decrease of 8 seats compared to the 2021 elections, where the same demographic captured 134 seats. Nevertheless, this proportion remains largely acceptable and aligns perfectly with the engineering of the Algerian electoral system, through which the legislature aims to guarantee that youth occupy one-third of the seats within the legislative institution. Concurrently, women's representation fell to 6.14%, securing only 25 seats, which represents a decline of 8 seats compared to the 2021 ballot where women held 33 seats.

In terms of educational attainment, the number of seats won by university graduates reached 312, representing 76.65% of the assembly. This reflects an increase of 36 seats compared to the 2021 elections, where the same category held 276 seats. This trend serves

as a highly positive indicator given the critical functions structural to the legislative branch, namely enacting and drafting legislation, exercising oversight over executive branch actions, and ratifying the state budget, among other duties structural to the members of the National People's Assembly. These complex responsibilities demand highly qualified representatives capable of analyzing draft bills with a deep level of technical comprehension and expertise, in addition to their political role in articulating the grievances and demands of the citizens within their respective electoral districts.

Conclusion

In light of the aforementioned analysis, it can be concluded that the legislative elections witnessed by Algeria on July 2, 2026, took place within a highly stable socio-economic and political climate. This cycle was notably characterized by the implementation of a new administrative territorial redistribution, under which several delegated provinces (*wilayas déléguées*) were promoted to full-fledged provinces, thereby gaining their distinct institutional representation within the legislative body. Candidates contested this second legislative milestone post-the 2019 popular Hirak movement through a political discourse primarily designed to incentivize political participation and electoral turnout, rather than addressing core issues of local development, improving living standards, consolidating security and stability, or supporting youth among other structural grievances central to citizens within their immediate environments.

On the level of specific party performances, the ballot revealed a significant contraction in the number of seats won by the majority of political formations. This regression is a direct corollary of the historically low voter turnout, which plummeted to 21.24% of the total electorate. This ratio clearly reflects the persistence of chronic voter apathy among a vast segment of society that has detached from representative institutions, leading to a visible decline in political engagement. Furthermore, this outcome demonstrates the structural failure of political parties to convince citizens of the imperative of massive turnout and mobilization at the ballot boxes, despite the repetitive appeals made by candidates throughout the electoral campaign. This continuous decline in participation rates has evolved into a primary challenge and a strategic hurdle confronting various political parties in Algeria, whose operational dynamism has become strictly confined to electoral cycles for receding entirely in their aftermath only to resurface with the next ballot.

Regarding the institutional architecture, the 2026 ballot yielded no structural innovations across all political dimensions. The final results ratified and proclaimed by the Constitutional Court on July 18, 2026, preserved the pre-existing institutional layout of the Algerian political system. No single partisan formation secured an absolute parliamentary majority that would legally enable it to lead the government. Consequently, under the current configuration, the President of the Republic will naturally proceed to appoint a Prime Minister, given that the ballot produced a comfortable presidential majority that guarantees the continuity of executive orientations and the implementation of the

presidential platform. This layout ultimately ensures a form of institutional stability and systemic equilibrium between the legislative and executive branches of the political system.

Acknowledgements

The authors acknowledge the official Algerian institutions whose publicly accessible legal and electoral publications provided the documentary basis for this study, particularly the Constitutional Court, the National Independent Authority for Elections (ANIE), and the Official Gazette of the Algerian Republic.

Ethical approval

This study relied exclusively on documentary analysis and aggregate, publicly available legal and electoral data. It did not involve human participants, animals, interviews, surveys, experiments, or personally identifiable information. Therefore, institutional ethical approval and informed consent were not required.

Authors' Contributions

Abdellah Djaafri and **Houari Laabed** jointly contributed to the conceptualization and design of the study, the collection and examination of official legal and electoral materials, the interpretation and analysis of the election results, and the preparation of the original manuscript. Both authors participated in reviewing and editing the manuscript and approved the final version submitted for publication.

Disclosure statement

The authors declare that they have no competing financial interests, professional affiliations, or personal relationships that could have influenced the research reported in this article.

Funding

This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

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Data Availability Statement

All data supporting the findings of this study were obtained from publicly available official sources, including the final election results proclaimed by the Constitutional Court, the relevant electoral legislation, and records published in the Official Gazette of the Algerian Republic. The data compiled and analysed by the authors are presented within the article and its tables, and all underlying sources are cited in the reference list. No confidential, proprietary, or separately archived dataset was generated for this study.

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