

RASSED for Parliamentary Monitoring Program A Report of Discussing and Approving the 2016 Jordanian Constitutional Amendments April 27, 2016

RASSED has followed the constitutional amendments until it was approved by the House of Representatives by a sweeping majority of 96% of the total attendants' votes. Voting was held according to Article (843/) of the Constitution, which states that «if the voting was related to the Constitution, the confidence in the ministers' cabinet, or the confidence in a minister, the voting should be held by calling the Parliament members by name loudly». Article 88 of the Rules of Procedure specifies that voting on constitutional amendments is taken by calling the names of the Parliament members and answering by agree, disagree, or no vote. Unlike the vote on other draft laws, every single constitutional amendment, according to Article 126 of the Constitution, is passed by a two-third majority of the members of each of the Senate and the Parliament.

120 Parliament member voted in favor of approving the overall amendments of the Constitution, while 5 Parliament members disagreed with the amendments, with 25 absent Parliament members.

87.2% of the Parliament members approved Article 40 amendment, allowing the King to exercise his powers via a royal decree without the need for the signature of the Council of Ministers. 11.9% of the Deputies in attendance voted on a proposal submitted by MP Abul Alkareem Al-Doghmi and MP Mahmoud Al-Kharabsheh.

80% of the attending Parliament members agreed to Article 42 by omitting the phrase «does not hold another nationality» from the

paragraph that prohibits citizens of dual nationality to be ministers or gain any equally senior public job.

98.4% of the attending Parliament members voted in favor of amendments to Article 50, which stipulate that in the event of the death of the Prime Minister the government should remain in place. In the same session, 94.8% of the deputies agreed to an amendment to Article 69, which extends the term of the House Speaker to two years instead of one by allowing him/her to be elected for another two-year term, while 5.2% of the parliament members disagreed with this amendment. 90.9% of the Parliament members scrapped Paragraph B of Article 75, which banned dual-nationality citizens from becoming members of the Parliament or the Senate.

96.8% of the deputies passed an amendment on Article 1273/ by adding the words « Gendarmerie Chief» after the «Intelligence Chief», and omitting the phrase «despite what was mentioned in Article 40 of the Constitution», which gave the King the power to appoint the Gendarmerie Chief, terminate his services or accept his resignation.

Article 40: 100% of “Al-Etehad Al-Watani” and “Wattan” blocs voted in favor of amendments, while 23.8% of “Al-Nahda” bloc voted in favor of the amendments.

Article 42: 94.1% of “Wattan” bloc and 62% of “Al-Nahda” bloc voted in favor of amendments.

Article 50: 100% of “Al-Wasat Al-Islami” and “Wattan” blocs voted in favor of amendments.

Article 69: 100% of “Al-Wasat Al-Islami” and “Al-Etehad Al-Watani” blocs voted in favor of amendments.

Article 75: 100% of “Al-Etehad Al-Watani” bloc voted in favor of amendments.

Article 127: 100% of “Al-Etehad Al-Watani” bloc voted in favor of amendments, while 93% of “Al-Wefaq” bloc voted in favor of amendments.

Overall amendments: 100% of “Al-Etehad Al-Watani” bloc, “Wattan” and «Al-Wasat Al-Islami” blocs by 94%, while 80% of “Al-Islah” and “Mubadara” blocs voted in favor of overall amendments.

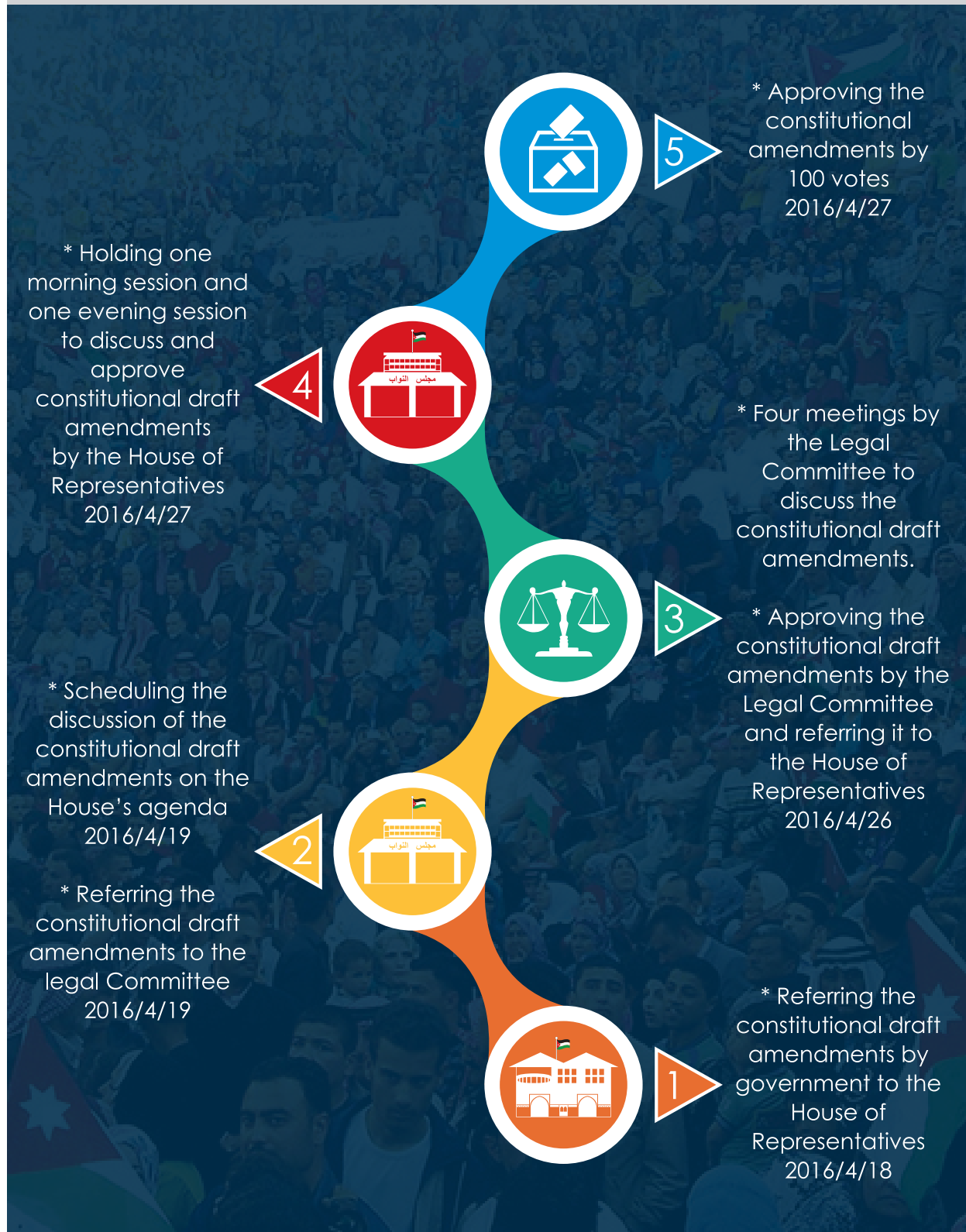
RASED monitored the attendance of the Parliament members during the voting on the amendments. 142 members attended the Article 40 voting, while 8 members were absent. During the voting process on Article 52, the absent members were 11 deputies. However, the number of absent members during voting on the Articles 50 and 75 was 18. 25 members have missed the voting process.

The government submitted the Constitutional amendments, which included amendments on six articles of the Jordanian Constitution, to the Parliament on April 18, 2016. The Parliament listed these amendments on its schedule on the April 19, 2016, and then referred the Constitutional draft amendments to the Legal Committee.

The Legal Committee held 4 meetings allocated to discuss the amendments and to present a number of recommendations. 90% of the member of the Committee attended the Legal Committee meetings. On the other hand, 46 of the Chamber of Deputies attended the Committee meetings. The Legal Committee approved the amendments and submitted it to the House. The House Speaker held two legislative sessions on Wednesday April 27, 2016, allocated to discuss the Constitutional draft amendments.

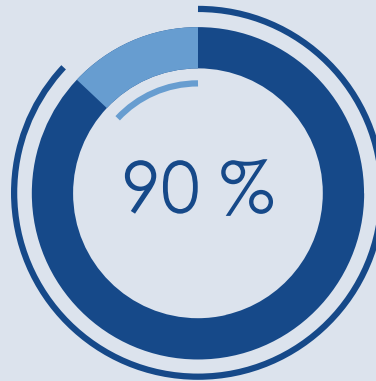
During the Legal Committee meetings, 40% of “Mubadra” and “Al-Wefaq” blocs’ members attended the Legal Committee meetings. 38.1% of “Al-Nahda” bloc members attended the meetings. 29.4% of “Al-Wasat Al-Islami” bloc members attended the meetings. On the other hand, 28% of the independent members attended the Committee’s meetings.

Stages of approval for the draft amendments to the Jordanian constitution of 2016

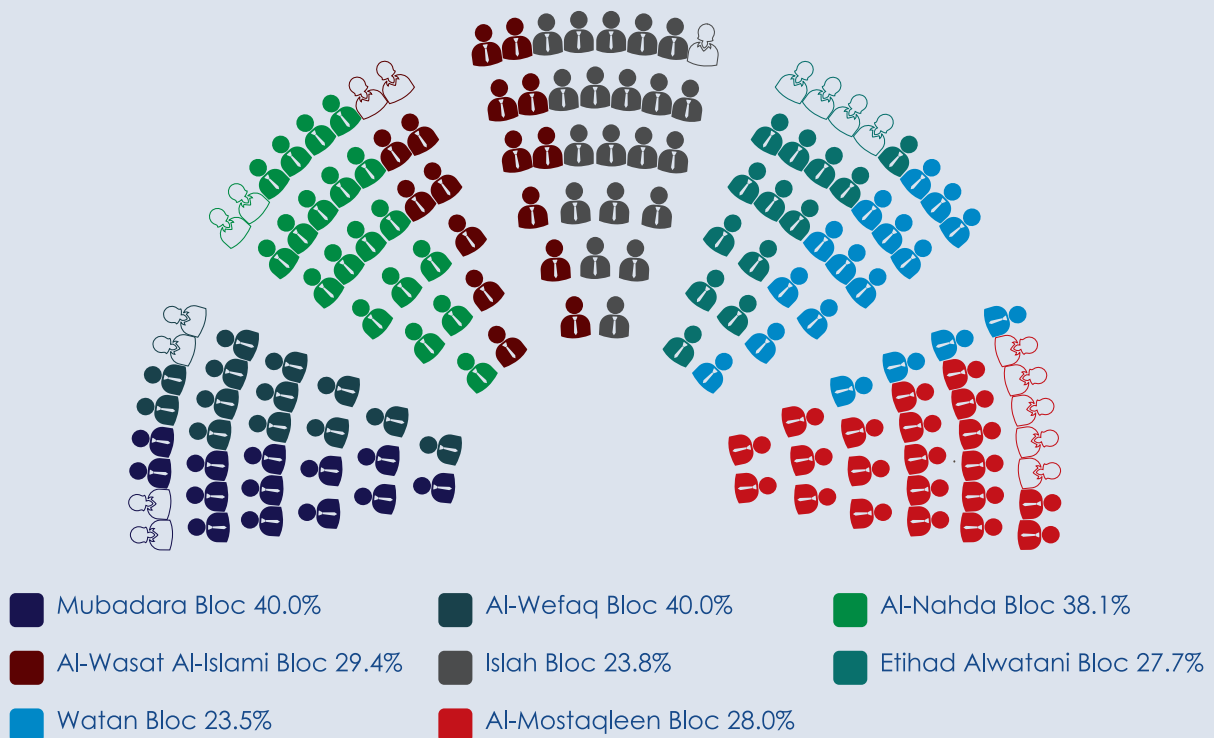


The Legal Committee's meetings to discuss the constitutional draft amendment

Committee members attendance in the meetings



Blocs' members attendance in the meetings (of the non members of the Committee)



MPs voting on the constitutional amendments of 2016

Article 40: The king shall be given the authority to appoint the Gendarmerie chief

Agree: 123 MP
Disagree: 18 MPs
Abstain: 1 MP
Absent: 8 MPs

Article 42: Allow dual-nationality citizens to become members of the House of representatives or the Senate

Agree: 113 MP
Disagree: 23 MPs
Abstain: 3 MP
Absent: 11 MPs



The constitutional amendments 2016

Article 50: Deputy Prime Minister is considered to be automatically the Prime Minister in case of the decease of the current Prime Minister



Agree: 130 MP
Disagree: 2 MPs
Abstain: 0 MP
Absent: 18 MPs

The



Agree: 120 MP
Disagree: 5 MPs
Abstain: 0 MP
Absent: 25 MPs

Article 69: Extending the term length of the House of Representatives

Agree: 128 MP
Disagree: 7 MPs
Abstain: 0 MP
Absent: 15 MPs



Conditions of becoming a Senator or a Representative



Agree: 120 MP
Disagree: 12 MPs
Abstain: 0 MP
Absent: 18 MPs

Article 127 : Remove the sentence "In spite of what is stated in Article 40 of the Constitution" from paragraph 3

Agree: 123 MP
Disagree: 4 MPs
Abstain: 0 MP
Absent: 23 MPs



Representatives' adherence to attending the sessions allocated to discuss and approve the constitutional draft amendments

8 MPs

were absent from the sessions allocated to discuss and approve the constitutional draft amendments

142 MPs

adhered to attending the sessions allocated to discuss and approve the constitutional draft amendments

Jordan's constitutional amendments

2016 – 1952



The Constitution was declared issued by King Talal
1952/1/08



- * 1954/2/24 - limiting the Predominance of the executive authority over the legislative on
- * 1955/10/12 - Changing the mechanism of forming the Senate
- * 1958/5/1 - Establishing the Hashemite union between Jordan and Iraq
- * 1958/08/23 - The end of Hashemite union between Jordan and Iraq

* 1960/1/27 - The King granted the authority to prolong the term of the Lower House.

* 1965/4/1 - Granting the authority to the King to appoint the Crown Prince

* 1973/4/5 - Filling of a vacant seat in the House of Representatives

* 1974/11/9 - The mechanism of dissolving the Senate and postponing the elections of MPS

* 1976/2/7 - The King is granted the authority to postpone the elections

* 1984/1/9 - The King may, reinstate and convene the dissolved House of Representatives.

- * 2011 - 1. The establishment of an independent elections commission
- 2. The establishment of a constitutional court
- 3. Allowing the public prosecution of a minister in civil court
- 4. Terminating the Higher Council for the interpretation of the Constitution
- 5. Challenge the membership of the House of Representatives in court
- 6. Enhancing the power of the legislative authority
- * 2014/8/24 - 1. IEC responsibilities
- 2. The King is granted the authority to appoint the Army's commander and intelligence director
- * 2016/4/27 - 1. The King is granted the authority to appoint Gendarmerie Department directors.
- 2. The death of the prime minister no longer means the resignation of the government. Extending the term of the Speaker of the Lower House
- 3. Abolishment of a ban which prohibited citizens of dual nationality to be ministers

