

IRI Index II: Institutional Ratings

IRI's polling over the past year has tracked voter opinions on various institutions. Voters were asked if they had a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable opinion of each institution; very favorable and somewhat favorable responses are combined to produce an overall favorability rating. Favorable ratings for each institution follow in the table below:

Institutions	June 06	Sept 06	Feb 07	June 07	% Change
Media	62%	68%	67%	82%	+15%
Army	77%	82%	80%	80%	0%
National Assembly	46%	64%	57%	64%	+7%
Courts	29%	60%	51%	62%	+11%
Political Parties	35%	55%	49%	50%	+1%
Opposition	33%	*	48%	49%	+1%
Election Commission	39%	49%	47%	49%	+2%
Government	49%	65%	55%	41%	-14%
Police	19%	34%	28%	28%	0%

*Question not asked in Sept 06 poll

The media and the Army are the most highly rated institutions in Pakistan. In IRI's polling over the past year, the army has been by far the most respected institution, with a rating consistently near 80 percent. In the latest poll, however, the media vaulted to the top, increasing 15 points to 82 percent. In addition, 43 percent of voters rated the media very favorably while 30 percent rated the Army in that category. The increase in the media's rating could be a result of the vigorous coverage the media gave to the Chief Justice crisis over the past four months.

The courts also saw an increase, and again it is likely that this is due to its handling of the judicial crisis. The favorability rating of the courts increased 11 points to 62 percent, putting it in the same range as the National Assembly, which also saw a significant increase.

Political parties, the opposition, and the Election Commission had slight increases that kept them in the 50 percent range, while the government fell 14 points to 41 percent. The government has been on a steady decline since September of last year, when it was rated at 65 percent; it has dropped a total of 24 points since that high. Whereas the government has been leading the opposition consistently over the past year, for the first time in IRI's polling the opposition now beats the government by a margin of 49 percent to 41 percent.

Finally, the police trailed behind other institutions, with only 28 percent of Pakistanis rating them favorably.

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