

## IRI Kazakhstan Index

The International Republican Institute's (IRI) poll reveals an increase in the dissatisfaction with the government's performance on a number of key issues. Voters were most increasingly dissatisfied with the implementation of democratic reforms, development of roads and highways, preservation of the environment and fighting crime.

- Kazakhstanis are increasingly dissatisfied with the implementation of democratic reforms. Thirty-two percent report that the government is doing a poor job on democratic reforms (up 18 percent); while 35 percent feel they are doing a good job (down one percent).
- A plurality of voters rate the government's performance on developing roads and highways as poor (37 percent poor; 30 percent good). Compared to the [October 2009 poll](#), this represents a 13 point increase in the number rating the government's performance as poor and a 10 percent decrease in the number of voters rating the government's performance as good.
- Voters rate the government's performance on preserving the environment as poor (33 percent poor; 26 percent good). Compared to the last poll, this represents an 11 point increase in the number rating the government's performance as poor and a seven percent decrease in the number of voters rating the government's performance as good.
- A plurality of voters rate the government's performance on fighting crime as poor (39 percent poor; 20 percent good). Compared to the last poll, this represents an 11 percent increase in the number rating the government's performance as poor and a nine percent decrease in the number of voters rating the government's performance as good.
- Despite the government's declining performance approval ratings, the vast majority of voters feel the country is headed in the right direction. Seventy-seven percent of the population believes that Kazakhstan is heading in the right direction and 10 percent believe the country is heading in the wrong direction.

Most Kazakhstanis see their country facing a long list of serious problems. Illegal drugs and the spread of HIV/AIDS or other infectious diseases are seen as major problems by virtually everyone.

- Eighty-eight percent cite illegal drugs as a big problem in the country.
- Eighty-seven percent cite the spread of HIV/AIDS or other infectious diseases as a big problem.

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Complaints about environmental problems, corruption among government officials and increases in the price of utilities are also widely prevalent. Eighty-four percent cite pollution as a big problem and an overwhelming majority (78 percent) believes both corrupt government officials and increases in the price of utilities represent a big problem for Kazakhstan

While corruption among government officials ranks high on the list of problems, voters have been become increasingly unsatisfied with the government's efforts to fight corruption.

- A plurality of voters are now unsatisfied with the government's efforts to fight corruption (42 percent satisfied; 44 percent unsatisfied). Compared to the October poll, this represents an 18 point increase in the number saying they are unsatisfied and an 11 percent decrease in the number of voters saying they are satisfied.

Kazakhstani attitudes about the economy are of paramount importance as economic issues continue to be the single greatest concern of voters.

Top Issues: 25 percent responded low standard of living and low income, 23 percent cited inflation and price increases and 18 percent said unemployment and threat of losing a job.

- The majority of voters agree with the idea that Kazakhstan is experiencing a serious financial crisis. When respondents were asked if they agreed or disagreed with the idea that Kazakhstan is experiencing a serious financial crisis, 67 percent agreed and 26 percent disagreed. This represents a decrease from the October poll when 73 percent agreed and 20 percent disagreed.
- Fifty-five percent of respondents rate the government's handling of the problems caused by the world financial crisis as good, while 29 percent rate its handling as bad. When compared to the October 2009 poll, the latest poll shows a one percent decrease in the number of voters rating the governments handling as good and a five percent increase in the number rating it as poor.
- Twenty-six percent of voters say that their personal financial situation has improved in the past year (26 percent improved; 25 percent worsened; 47 percent remained the same). Compared to the last poll, this represents a three point increase in the number saying it has improved and a one percent increase in the number saying it has worsened.
- Kazakhstanis remain optimistic about their economic future. Fifty percent report that they feel the economy will get better over the next year (down four percent), while seven percent feel it will get worse (down three percent) and another 33 percent feel that it will be about the same.

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- Kazakhstanis are losing confidence in the judicial system and courts in the country. Fifty-eight percent of the population said that they do not have confidence in the fairness of the judicial system and courts in the country (up 11 percent), while 24 percent expressed confidence (down three percent).
- Voters would overwhelmingly oppose a government plan to lease land to China. Roughly eight in 10 (81 percent) would oppose a decision by the government to lease Kazakhstani land to China for agricultural use.

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