

The Hamas Takeover of the Gaza Strip



1949- Egypt gains control of the Gaza Strip following armistice agreement with Israel. Israeli settlements are evacuated.

1950

1951

1952

1953

1954

1955

1956

1957

1958

1959

1960

1961

1962

1963

1964- The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) was founded by the Arab League

1965

1966

1967- Israel gains control of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem following the Six Day War

1968

1969

1970-72- The Israeli re-settlement of the Gaza Strip begins with Kfar Darom which grew to become Gush Katif

1973

1974

1975

1976

1977

1978

1979- Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty defined the border between Egypt and the Gaza Strip. Egypt rejected claim of the Gaza Strip

1980

1981

1982

1983

1984

1985

1986

1987- Formation of [Hamas](#) by [Sheikh Ahmed Yassin](#)

1988

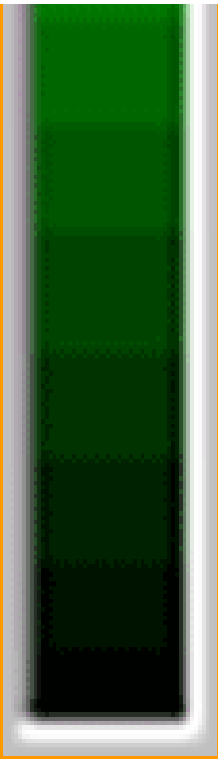
1990

1991- Madrid Peace Summit

1992

1993- The [Oslo Accords](#)

1994- The Palestinian Authority is established in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Yasser Arafat wins Nobel Peace Prize



1995- Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin assassinated at peace rally in Tel Aviv

1996- Yasser Arafat becomes Palestinian Authority President

1997

1998

1999

2000- The [Second Intifada](#) begins following the [Camp David Summit](#)

2001- Ariel Sharon becomes the Israeli Prime Minister

2002- Israel begins construction of security barrier around the West Bank

2003- The US publishes the "Road Map" for the peace process

2004- Prime Minister Sharon announces disengagement plan. Yasser Arafat dies.

[2005- Israeli Disengagement from the Gaza Strip 2005](#)

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[2007- Seige of Fatah's headquarters in the Gaza Strip](#)

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Israel's Disengagement from the Gaza Strip

August-September 2005

The complete withdrawal of Israelis from the Gaza Strip was one of the biggest historical withdrawals a nation has ever made. In an effort for peace, Ariel Sharon went against his historical support and implementation of the Israeli settlement movement. The disengagement uprooted and removed 21 Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip totalling about 9,000 people. The disengagement plan faced a large amount of opposition, mostly stemming from the major Israeli settlement of Gush Katif. In the year leading up to the disengagement the color orange identified people, restaurants, and stores as against the withdrawal of Israeli settlements from the Gaza Strip. The prominent slogan of the opposition movement was, *Yehudi lo megaresh Yehudi*, translated to "A Jew doesn't expel a Jew."

For More Information:

[Israel's unilateral disengagement plan](#)

[Disengagement Plan of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon](#)

[Disengagement Plan and President Bush's Acceptance](#)

[Outline of Disengagement Plan](#)

[In Gaza, A test Case for Peace](#)

[Map of Settlement Withdrawal](#)

[Gaza Disengagement: The History](#)

[Ben Eliezer: Disengagement a mistake- The Jerusalem Post](#)



A residential street in the Neve Dekalim settlement in Gush Katif.



With people power and faith, Gush Katif can still be saved from destruction. Do not despair!!

An anti-Disengagement protest in Gush Katif.



Anti-Disengagement protesters wearing the shirts with the Hebrew slogan of the opposition movement, *Yehudi lo megaresh Yehudi*, translated to "A Jew doesn't expel a Jew."



Anti-Disengagement protesters in Ofakim, a city in southern Israel near the Gaza Strip with an Israeli police presence.

Artistic picture showing the relationship of Judaism to the opposition to the disengagement plan. The black leather straps are called *tefillin* or phylacteries. They are used in a daily morning prayer ritual. The orange wristband shows the man's opposition to removing the Jewish settlements from the Gaza Strip. This wristband shows the Hebrew slogan of the opposition movement, *Yehudi lo megaresh Yehudi*, translated to "A Jew doesn't expel a Jew."



Un-Armed Israeli soldiers during the Gaza Disengagement



Palestinians Celebrating the Gaza Disengagement on its coast.



The destruction of Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip as a result of the disengagement.





Map Showing Gaza Settlements Evacuated



Settlement	Founded	Population***
Atzmona (Bnei Atzmona)	1982**	650
Bedola'h	1986	220
Dugit	1982	80
Elei Sinai	1983	350
Gdid	1982	310
Ganei Tal	1979	400
Gan Or	1983	350
Katif	1985	405
Kerem Atzmona	2001	70
Kfar Darom***	1989	365
Kfar Yam	1983	20
Morag	1972	220
Netzarim	1972	390
Netzer Hazani	1973	410
Neveh Dekalim	1983	2,500
Nissanit	1980	1050
Pe'at Sadeh	1989	105
Rafiah Yam	1984	150
Shirat Hayam	2000	50
Slav	1980	50
Tel Katifa	1992	75

EILAT

* Founded 1979 in Sinai. Moved to Gaza, 1982.

**Kfar Darom was founded about 1935; destroyed 1939; re-founded 1946; destroyed 1948

*** Estimates are about 15% below published total of 8,500

Palestinian Parliamentary Elections January 2006

In the January 25, 2006 Palestinian Parliamentary elections Hamas became a major player on the international arena by shocking the Western world with a victory over Fatah. Within a 132 seat Parliament, Hamas won 74 seats and Fatah won 45 seats, with a voter turnout of around 77%. The elections came after a large American push for a democratic process with the Palestinian Authority, even though Israel strongly warned of the dangers of these elections. This victory of Hamas over Fatah on what appeared to be a legitimate contest, gave birth to a stronger and appearingly more legitimized terrorist faction.

For more Information:

[Palestinian Parliamentary Elections 2006- GlobalSecurity.org](#)

[Palestinian legislative election, 2006- Wikipedia](#)

[Hamas Sweeps Palestinian Elections, Complicating Peace Efforts in Mideast- The Washington Post](#)

[Hamas' past casts shadow over peace plans- CNN](#)

[Helping Palestinians Build a Better Future- Condoleeza Rice](#)

[The National Security Strategy of the United States of America](#)

[Rice Urges Israel to Aid Palestinian Election- The New York Times](#)



US President George BUSH and US Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice

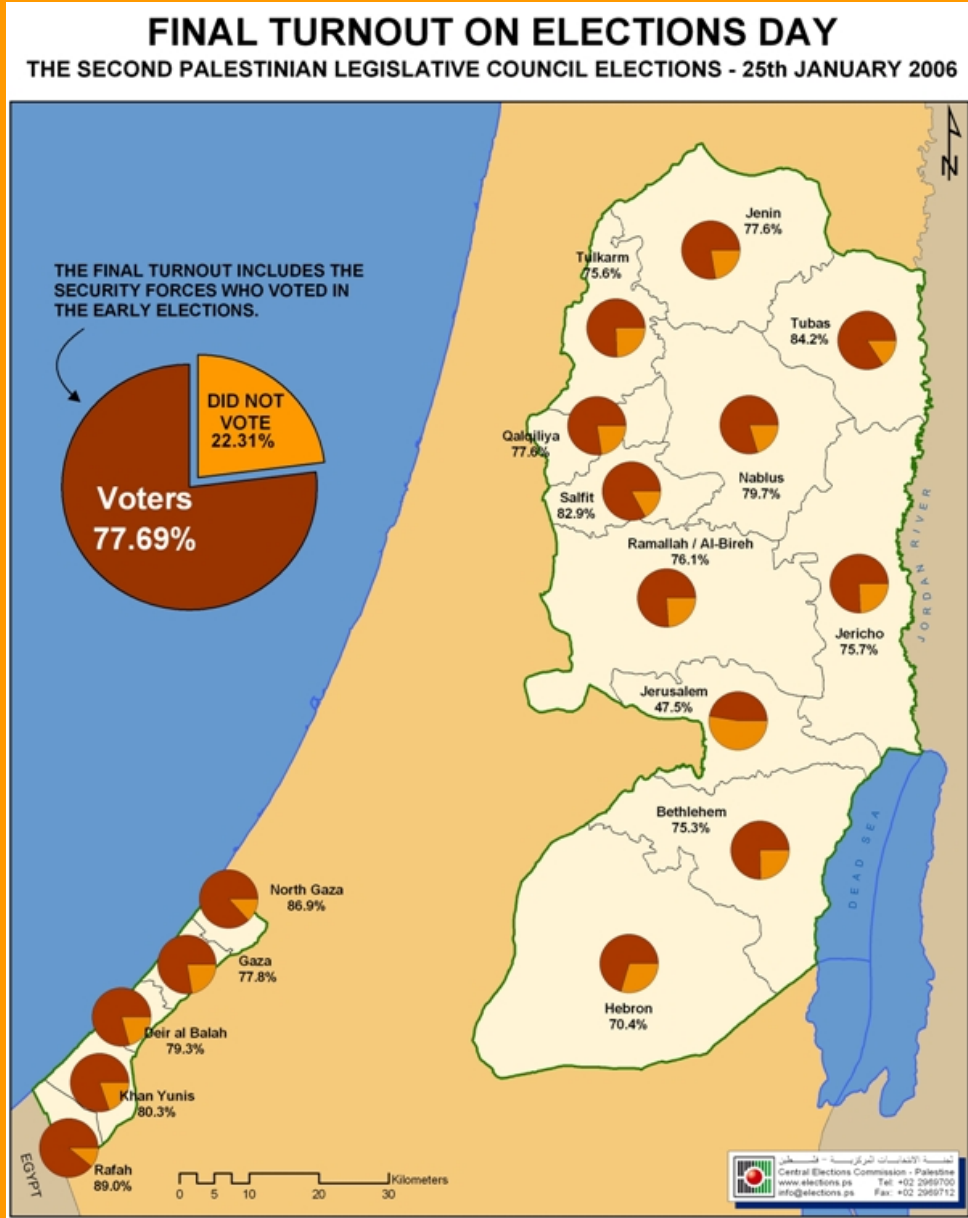


Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh, Hamas Leader Khaled Meshaal

Official Election Results

Election results by Specific district

Election Results by Seat Distribution



This map does a great job of showing the high voter turnout in the 2006 Palestinian elections. The map also shows the higher voter turnout of the cities in the Gaza Strip as compared to the cities in the West Bank. This demonstrates the high political activity of the residents of the Gaza Strip.


Palestinian Elections


Palestinian voters will choose the Palestinian Authority parliament on Wednesday in the first legislative elections in a decade. Fatah, the secular, nationalist movement that has dominated Palestinian politics for decades, is slightly favored over Hamas, the radical Islamic movement. Polls suggest that no party may win a majority, which could lead to a coalition government.

 Areas of formal Palestinian authority

How Seats Are Assigned

Each voter receives two ballots because the 132 seats in the parliament are allocated two ways.

 **66 seats** are elected from more than 700 candidates in 16 districts. Candidate names appear on the ballots.

 **66 seats** are elected by the proportion of overall votes won by each party. Only the 11 party names appear on the ballots.

GAZA Strip

NORTH GAZA 5 seats

GAZA CITY 8 seats

DEIR EL BALAH 3 seats

KHAN YUNIS 5 seats

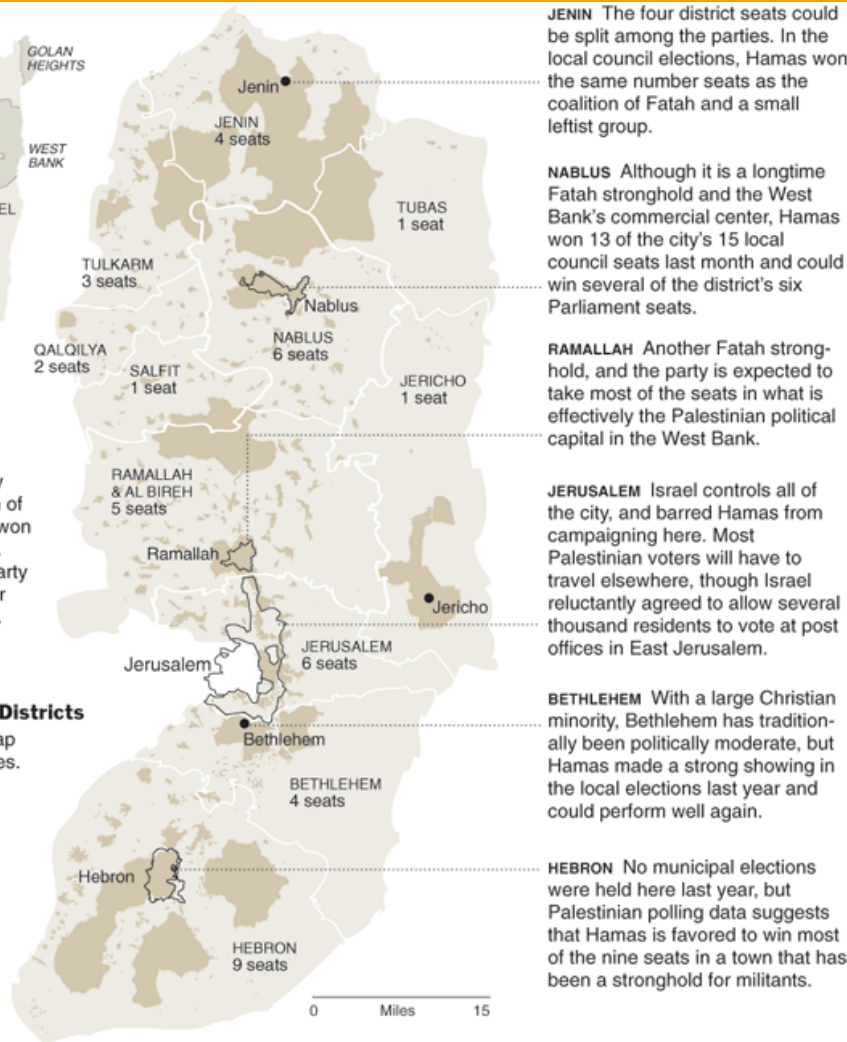
RAFAH 3 seats

Seats From Electoral Districts

White borders on each map mark the district boundaries.

GAZA Poor, religious and conservative, the Gaza Strip has been Hamas's traditional stronghold. The group is expected to do well here, as it did in the municipal elections last year.

Source: Central Elections Commission-Palestine



JENIN The four district seats could be split among the parties. In the local council elections, Hamas won the same number seats as the coalition of Fatah and a small leftist group.

NABLUS Although it is a longtime Fatah stronghold and the West Bank's commercial center, Hamas won 13 of the city's 15 local council seats last month and could win several of the district's six Parliament seats.

RAMALLAH Another Fatah stronghold, and the party is expected to take most of the seats in what is effectively the Palestinian political capital in the West Bank.

JERUSALEM Israel controls all of the city, and barred Hamas from campaigning here. Most Palestinian voters will have to travel elsewhere, though Israel reluctantly agreed to allow several thousand residents to vote at post offices in East Jerusalem.

BETHLEHEM With a large Christian minority, Bethlehem has traditionally been politically moderate, but Hamas made a strong showing in the local elections last year and could perform well again.

HEBRON No municipal elections were held here last year, but Palestinian polling data suggests that Hamas is favored to win most of the nine seats in a town that has been a stronghold for militants.

This map does a great job of portraying the system that is used in the Palestinian elections. There is a brief description of all the major cities in terms of the inhabited population and most of all the faction they will most likely support. The support for Hamas in Gaza and in the West Bank does not come across as a surprise when looking at this descriptive map.

The Capture of Fatah's Headquarters in Gaza

June 15, 2007

Gaza City, Gaza Strip

After a week of fighting between Hamas and Fatah, Hamas captured the Presidential compound of PA President Mahmoud Abbas. This marked the official takeover of the Gaza Strip by Hamas. In this victory Hamas militants celebrated by posing for several photographs that mock the United States and Fatah.

[Resources on the Hamas Takeover of the Gaza Strip](#)

[Hamas Takes Full Control of Gaza- BBC](#)

[Siege on Gaza- Btselem](#)

[Hamas conquers Gaza Strip- Haaretz](#)

[Takeover by Hamas Illustrates Failure of Bush's Mideast Vision- The Washington Post](#)







Since the Hamas Takeover of the Gaza Strip

Since Hamas violently tookover, the Gaza Strip has been in shambles. The region has turned into chaos controlled by a violent faction. The rocketing of Israeli towns has not ceased and the area's hostility is increasing. As a response to the continual rocket attacks on Israeli cities, Israel has reduced the fuel supply to the entire strip. Even though, Israel withdrew from the Gaza Strip in 2005, Israel is still responsible for the situation because they control the border crossings in and out of the Gaza Strip. The fuel cut is not helping the already spiralling downhill economy in the Gaza Strip. The humanitarian situation is also spiralling out of control as borders have been closed and Hamas has boycotted several food and aid shipments to the region. Amidst the horrible situation in the Gaza Strip, Hamas has vowed for more violence against Israel as they were not invited to the Annapolis Summit.

More Information on the Situation Since the Hamas Takeover

[Israel to Seal Gaza After Hamas Takes Over- AP](#)

[What Comes After Hamas?- The Jerusalem Post](#)

['How can people live, I wonder?'- The Guardian](#)

[Background: What the state needs to explain about Gaza fuel cuts- The Jerusalem Post](#)

[See Gaza and weep - uruknet.info](#)

[Ben Eliezer: Disengagement a mistake- The Jerusalem Post](#)

[Hamas bans Israeli produce in Gaza- The Jerusalem Post](#)

[IDF colonel: Hamas creating humanitarian crisis- The Jerusalem Post](#)

[EU halts aid to Gaza, closes border- USA Today](#)

[Hamas warns of violence after talks- The Observer](#)

[Stranded Palestinians May Get to Gaza- The NY Times](#)

[Hamas Lion King Video](#)



On the Hamas owned television channel, Al-Aqsa TV, Hamas aired a Lion King parody of the Hamas-Fatah conflict. In its propaganda, Hamas depicts Fatah as greedy traitors of Islam while being puppets of the United States. Hamas depicts themselves as a noble lion that protects the integrity of Islam and the Palestinian people. The title of the video is "Message to the criminal gangs in the occupied West Bank," it aired in August 23, 2007.

[Hamas battle cartoon mimics 'Lion King'- The Jerusalem Post](#)



Important People to Know



Former Palestinian Prime Minister Yasser Arafat



Political Leader of Hamas Khaled Meshaal

Political Leader of Hamas and Former Prime Minister of Palestinian National Authority, Ismail Haniyeh



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas



Former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon



Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert



US President George W. Bush



Key Players Interacting



Haniyeh,
Meshaal,
and Abbas
in the
Kaaba in
Mecca.



Olmert and
Abbas
meeting in
Israel.



Abbas,
Bush,
Sharon at
the Red Sea
Summit in
Aqaba,
Jordan.



Olmert and
Sharon in a
Knesset
session in
Jerusalem.

Olmert and
Bush in the
White
House in
Washington,
D.C.



Basic Information on the Gaza Strip



The Gaza Strip is located in the Middle East (at 31°25'N 34°20'ECoordinates: 31°25'N 34°20'E). It has a 51 kilometers (32 mi) border with Israel, and an 11 km border with Egypt, near the city of Rafah. Khan Yunis is located 7 kilometers (4 mi) northeast of Rafah, and several towns around Deir el-Balah are located along the coast between it and Gaza City. Beit Lahia and Beit Hanoun are located to the north and northeast of Gaza City, respectively.

The Gush Katif bloc of Israeli localities used to exist on the sand dunes adjacent to Rafah and Khan Yunis, along the southwestern edge of the 40 kilometers (25 mi) Mediterranean coastline. A few months after the disengagement in December 2005, a controversial buffer zone was created on the northern border with Israel, in the area often used to launch Qassam rockets into Israel. Part of it reaches 2.5 kilometers (1.6 mi) into the Palestinian Authority-controlled territory, on roughly the area of the former northern Israeli localities.

The Gaza Strip has a temperate climate, with mild winters, and dry, hot summers subject to drought. The terrain is flat or rolling, with dunes near the coast. The highest point is Abu 'Awdah (Joz Abu 'Auda), at 105 meters (344 ft) above sea level. Natural resources include arable land (about a third of the strip is irrigated), and recently discovered natural gas. Environmental issues include desertification; salination of fresh water; sewage treatment; water-borne disease; soil degradation; and depletion and contamination of underground water resources.

The Strip currently holds the oldest known remains of a man-made bonfire, and some of the world's oldest dated human skeletons. It occupies territory similar to that of ancient Philistia, and is occasionally known by that name.

Map of the Gaza Strip Overlain on a Satellite Image



Israel and The Palestinian Territories





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More Basic Information on the Gaza Strip

[Gaza Strip- MSN Encarta](#)

[The Gaza Strip- CIA World Factbook](#)

[BBC Profile: Gaza Strip](#)

[Gaza Strip- Wikipedia](#)

[Interactive Map of Israel- The Jerusalem Post](#)



The Second 2006 PLC Elections lists voter per districts

		The Alternative (1)		Independet Palestine (Mustafa Barghouthi and Independents) (2)		Martyr Abu Ali Mustafa (3)		Martyr Abu al- Abbas (4)		Freedom and Social Justice (5)		Change and Reform (6)	
No.	District	Total No. of valid votes	% *	Total No. of valid votes	% *	Total No. of valid votes	% *	Total No. of valid votes	% *	Total No. of valid votes	% *	Total No. of valid votes	% *
01	Jerusalem	2,282	5.96%	1,986	5.18%	2,135	5.57%	336	0.88%	410	1.07%	16,035	41.85%
02	Jenin	2,629	3.53%	2,322	3.11%	3,657	4.90%	331	0.44%	440	0.59%	28,196	37.81%
03	Tulkarem	2,110	4.01%	1,253	2.38%	1,919	3.65%	124	0.24%	764	1.45%	22,883	43.52%
04	Tubas	808	4.87%	563	3.39%	709	4.27%	120	0.72%	64	0.39%	6,323	38.08%
05	Nablus	3,892	3.95%	2,359	2.40%	5,024	5.10%	222	0.23%	711	0.72%	44,000	44.71%
06	Qalqilya	756	2.94%	523	2.03%	783	3.04%	34	0.13%	338	1.31%	8,349	32.43%
07	Salfit	1,387	6.55%	1,201	5.67%	1,019	4.81%	72	0.34%	840	3.96%	7,501	35.41%
08	Ramallah	3,609	4.53%	3,210	4.03%	5,278	6.62%	384	0.48%	637	0.80%	33,686	42.24%
09	Jericho	437	3.75%	513	4.40%	421	3.61%	102	0.87%	133	1.14%	3,861	33.10%
10	Bethlehem	3,191	6.64%	2,008	4.18%	4,519	9.40%	114	0.24%	227	0.47%	15,140	31.51%
11	Hebron	3,190	2.57%	4,996	4.02%	4,103	3.31%	393	0.32%	1,138	0.92%	61,433	49.49%
12	North Gaza	1,266	1.66%	1,261	1.65%	4,973	6.53%	127	0.17%	153	0.20%	35,781	46.95%
13	Gaza	1,266	0.96%	2,116	1.60%	2,497	1.89%	227	0.17%	378	0.29%	74,816	56.72%
14	Deir al- Balah	656	1.08%	857	1.42%	2,328	3.85%	102	0.17%	257	0.42%	26,550	43.87%
15	Khan Younis	909	1.14%	1,174	1.47%	1,888	2.37%	229	0.29%	369	0.46%	35,070	43.96%
16	Rafah	585	1.14%	567	1.10%	848	1.65%	94	0.18%	268	0.52%	20,785	40.39%
	Total	28,973	2.92%	26,909	2.72%	42,101	4.25%	3,011	0.30%	7,127	0.72%	440,409	44.45%

*The percentage from the valid voted in the distrctit

**Central Elections Commission
Palestine**



لجنة الانتخابات المركزية
فلسطين

		The National Coalition for Justice and Democracy (7)		The Third Way (8)		Freedom and Independence (9)		The Palestinian Justice (10)		Fatah Movement (11)		Grand total on the districts level	
#	District	Total No. of valid votes	% *	Total No. of valid votes	% *	Total No. of valid votes	% *	Total No. of valid votes	% *	Total No. of valid votes	% *	Total No. of valid votes	% *
01	Jerusalem	116	0.30%	904	2.36%	233	0.61%	177	0.46%	13,698	35.75%	38,312	100.00%
02	Jenin	157	0.21%	2,402	3.22%	379	0.51%	255	0.34%	33,796	45.32%	74,564	100.00%
03	Tulkarem	87	0.17%	2,372	4.51%	328	0.62%	68	0.13%	20,667	39.31%	52,575	100.00%
04	Tubas	107	0.64%	741	4.46%	288	1.73%	208	1.25%	6,673	40.19%	16,604	100.00%
05	Nablus	71	0.07%	4,051	4.12%	199	0.20%	253	0.26%	37,635	38.24%	98,417	100.00%
06	Qalqilya	29	0.11%	870	3.38%	243	0.94%	58	0.23%	13,765	53.46%	25,748	100.00%
07	Salfit	93	0.44%	1,462	6.90%	296	1.40%	37	0.17%	7,278	34.35%	21,186	100.00%
08	Ramallah	84	0.11%	1,701	2.13%	136	0.17%	77	0.10%	30,939	38.80%	79,741	100.00%
09	Jericho	14	0.12%	309	2.65%	24	0.21%	19	0.16%	5,833	50.00%	11,666	100.00%
10	Bethlehem	80	0.17%	1,346	2.80%	100	0.21%	72	0.15%	21,255	44.23%	48,052	100.00%
11	Hebron	222	0.18%	3,322	2.68%	527	0.42%	145	0.12%	44,668	35.98%	124,137	100.00%
12	North Gaza	73	0.10%	755	0.99%	203	0.27%	61	0.08%	31,559	41.41%	76,212	100.00%
13	Gaza	302	0.23%	1,520	1.15%	348	0.26%	96	0.07%	48,328	36.64%	131,894	100.00%
14	Deir al- Balah	206	0.34%	549	0.91%	290	0.48%	42	0.07%	28,681	47.39%	60,518	100.00%
15	Khan Younis	106	0.13%	1,027	1.29%	559	0.70%	71	0.09%	38,384	48.11%	79,786	100.00%
16	Rafah	59	0.11%	531	1.03%	245	0.48%	84	0.16%	27,395	53.23%	51,461	100.00%
	Total	1,806	0.18%	23,862	2.41%	4,398	0.44%	1,723	0.17%	410,554	41.43%	990,873	100.00%



The second 2006 PLC elections
The final distribution of PLC seats

	Political affiliation	No. of seats in the lists	No. of seats in the districts	Total No. of seats
1	Change and Reform	29	45	74
2	Fatah Movement	28	17	45
3	Martyr Abu Ali Mustafa	3	0	3
4	The Third Way	2	0	2
5	The Alternative	2	0	2
6	Independent Palestine	2	0	2
7	Independents	0	4	4
	Total	66	66	132