

# Iran Election Update

May 15, 2013

- MP Mohammed Reza Tabesh [said](#), “No one can dictate to the Guardian Council as to who should be approved by the Guardian Council but until now eight people have been approved by the Council with others still being reviewed.” Meanwhile, sources close to the Guardian Council [told](#) Tabnak News that seven to 12 individuals have been unofficially approved by the Council. Unconfirmed reports state that seven of those unconfirmed are: Saeed Jalili, Ali Akbar Velayati, Mohammed Bagher Qalibaf, Hashemi Rafsanjani, Mohammed Aref, Mohsen Rezaei, and Gholam Ali Haddad Adel.
- In an interview with Fars News, a spokesperson for the Guardian Council [said](#), “due to the high volume of candidates that registered in the presidential election, it is likely that there will be an extension for the Guardian Council to vet the many candidates.” The vetting process is designed to start on May 12 and end on May 17.
- In a [speech](#) this morning addressing a large [crowd](#), the Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei said, “Nothing would make our enemies happier than people not participating in the election, as this is what the enemy wants.” He also said, “the elections are almost a month away and it has now become one of the most important issues in the world.” Elsewhere in his speech, the Supreme Leader stated, “They (enemies) are trying to create a gap between the people and the Islamic establishment through political pressures in a move to disappoint the people, and at the same time lie and boldly say that they are not the enemies of the Iranian people.”
- After meeting with his cabinet today, President Ahmadinejad [told](#) reporters, “The election season strengthens national solidarity, this is the literature of our revolution, the literature of our culture and Iran, and we must assist each other to reach a higher level.” He explained, “We should back and support whoever is chosen by the people (in the election) so that they will be successful.”
- Presidential candidate and close confidant of President Ahmadinejad, Esfandiar Rahim-Mashaie explained his pre-election withdrawal from the public scene by [stating](#), “It’s been two years that we’ve been silent, but we’ve known, and we know what’s going on and in the future I will reveal some things behind the scenes.”
- Ramazan Sharif, the public relations officer for Iran’s Revolutionary Guards, [said](#) that the “IRGC will not interfere in the elections, but if the elections are threatened it is our duty to act.”
- Prominent political analyst and University of Tehran political science professor Sadegh Zibakalam [predicts](#) that former President Hashemi Rafsanjani “will win the election in a landslide,” and that “if Mashaie is disqualified, the election will be a race between either Ali Akbar Velayati and Rafsanjani or Saeed Jalili and Rafsanjani.”
- In a meeting with the executive committee of a number of young reformist groups, former President Mohammed Khatami [told](#) its members, “I tell all the people that they should understand that this is a historic moment. And I ask the people who sympathize with me and Rafsanjani to give their vote to Mr. Rafsanjani.”

By Hanif Zarrabi-Kashani



Additional Iran Election Updates are available [here](#).

Election date is June 14, 2013.