

# Iran Election Update

May 7, 2013

- Former President Mohammed Khatami has published a [statement](#) on his personal website saying that he thinks Rafsanjani will probably run as a candidate and that he would be a great president for the country if he chooses to do so. He also upped the ante by saying that "if the Supreme Leader doesn't want someone to run then obviously they should not, but WHY would the Supreme Leader oppose his candidacy?" Rafsanjani made headlines yesterday by saying, "I will speak to the Supreme Leader and see if he is ok with me running."
- The official registration period for the 11<sup>th</sup> presidential elections [has begun today](#) May 7 and will continue until May 11. From May 12-16, Iran's 12-member Guardian Council will look into each candidate and determine whether a candidate is eligible for participating in the election. The vetting process by the Guardian Council is based on articles of the constitution, which calls for candidates to have a political and religious background, Iranian citizenship, and to believe in the principles of the Islamic Republic and its official state religion. After a candidate has been vetted by the Guardian Council and for some reason is deemed ineligible to participate in the elections, the candidate will have time to appeal the Guardian Council's decision from May 17-21. The names of the candidates that are able to participate in the elections will be unveiled by Iran's Interior Ministry May 22-23. After the candidates have been determined, the pre-election campaigns would begin on May 24 and end on June 12. In 2009, only four candidates were cleared to run; Mohsen Rezaei, Mir Hussein Mousavi, Mehdi Karroubi, and the incumbent Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. More than 20 candidates have already [announced](#) their intention to run in this summer's election.
- The Secretary of Iran's Expediency Council and presidential candidate Mohsen Rezaei [said that](#) Iran at the moment is struggling to withstand internal factional fighting, and if he wins the election, "all political disputes would be put aside." Rezaei also criticized an election law in Iran that allows for only 25 days of election campaigning and added that "this would not be enough time to present the candidate's plans" and that the law must be amended to a six-month period in order to "resemble other countries." He also noted that if elected, he would promote the disarmament of nuclear weapons worldwide.
- Reformist presidential hopeful, and head of Mardomsalari (peoples' rule) Party, MP Mostafa Kavakebian [says](#) Iran is in need of comprehensive reforms in many sectors. Kavakebian also noted that any planned reforms need to comply with the principles of the Islamic Establishment and that reformists are determined to resolve the country's problems within that framework.
- An editorial on conservative news website Alef [discusses](#) the candidacy of former presidents Hashemi Rafsanjani and Mohammad Khatami and claims that both men will register at the Ministry of Interior for the presidential elections on the same day. The editorial goes on to say that Khatami will most likely be disqualified by the Guardian Council, after which he will throw his support and that of his supporters behind Rafsanjani's campaign. The author of the editorial also claims that Rafsanjani has the support of foreign media.
- Tehran Mayor Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, who is a member of the principlist 2+1 Coalition, has [said](#) the Islamic Republic needs to generate science so it can remain independent because this would create wealth and power for the country. He also spoke about the unrest following the 2009 presidential election by saying, "In previous years, I have always tried not to have double-standard policies. I have always tried to speak the truth, and accordingly some people have called me leftist, and others have called me rightist only because I have defended the truth."

By Hanif Zarrabi-Kashani



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Election date is June 14, 2013.