

# Iran Election Update

May 8, 2013

- Iran Interior Minister Mostafa Mohammad-Najjar [has said that](#) 75 people registered as presidential candidates on the first day of the registration period. On day two, 64 individuals [submitted](#) their presidential candidacy applications, bringing the total number to 144.
- Iran's Guardian Council allows only a few candidates to run in the actual election but many sign up and register. The conservative website Alef provides a [series of photos](#) and asks its readers their opinion on the colorful group of longshots that registered on day one.
- On day two of the registration period, Razieh Omidvar, 46 years of age, officially became the [first female candidate](#) (photo) to register for the Iranian presidential elections. During the Q&A session with reporters after she registered, she said that [she wants to](#) "serve the people and want to work toward improving the country's (current) condition." When pressed by reporters on her political stances, she replied, "I will not answer any political questions."
- A [series of photos](#) of day two of the presidential election registration period.
- Former member of parliament and current professor of economics at the University of Tehran, Hassan Sobhani [has submitted](#) his registration today for the elections. Sobhani is 58 years of age and has a Ph.D. in economics. [He was quoted](#) as saying that he "wants to deliver justice through the awareness of the people" and that "Although Iran has wide-ranging national interests around the world, mutual interests with Muslim countries in the Middle East are my top priority."
- Prominent political analyst and University of Tehran political science professor Sadeq Zibakalam [has said that](#) former President Hashemi Rafsanjani will eventually decide to run as a candidate in the election and that "he will have the support of the reformists." Zibakalam added, "All the classes and layers of Iranian society that are concerned about the future, the economy, the sanctions, the nuclear program, they will all vote for Rafsanjani."
- A video of the Mayor of Tehran, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, who is a member of the 2+1 Coalition, has been posted on YouTube today in which he discusses his opinion about his potential presidential rival, former President Hashemi Rafsanjani. In the clip, Qalibaf [says that](#), "I have never disrespected Mr. Hashemi and I never will...Mr. Hashemi is one of the most important religious men and for 55 years he has given his life to the Islamic Republic." Qalibaf recalled that while Ayatollah Khomeini lay on his death-bed, the Ayatollah told Rafsanjani that he was worried about the differences that Rafsanjani and Ayatollah Khamenei will have. Qalibaf turns emotional in the video and asks rhetorically, "Suppose there is a difference of opinion between Khamenei and Rafsanjani. Now is Khamenei supposed to accept your word or are you supposed to accept his?"

By Hanif Zarrabi-Kashani



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Election date is June 14, 2013.