

# Pezeshkian outshines Jalili, emerges victorious in runoff election

Iran's veteran parliamentarian and Reformist candidate Masoud Pezeshkian emerged victorious in the country's presidential runoff election on Friday and became the next chief executive after his predecessor, Ebrahim Raisi, who lost his life, along with foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and several others, in a tragic helicopter crash in northwest Iran on May 19.

According to the final vote count announced on Saturday morning, Iran's election headquarters, which runs under the auspices of the country's Interior Ministry, said Pezeshkian prevailed over his opponent, former nuclear negotiator and Conservative candidate Saeed Jalili.

Of the total 30,530,157 votes counted, Pezeshkian garnered 16,384,403 votes while Jalili trailed behind with 13,538,179 ballots, with a voter turnout standing at 49.8 percent. More than 61 million Iranians were eligible to vote in Friday's election inside the country, in addition to around 10 million Iranians living abroad.

## Leader hopes for 'bright horizons'

In a message on Saturday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei hailed the Iranian

people for their "warm and passionate" turnout in the presidential election, praising as a "brilliant and unforgettable job" what they did in the face of boycott calls.

"This great move in confronting the manufactured furor of boycotting the elections, which the enemies of the Iranian nation had launched to induce despair and deadlock, is a brilliant and unforgettable job," Ayatollah Khamenei said. "All the honorable candidates and all those who worked day and night for weeks for the victory of each of them share in its honor and reward," he added.

Now that the Iranian nation has elected its president, the Leader noted, I congratulate the nation and the president-elect and all those working in this sensitive juncture, especially the enthusiastic youths at the election headquarters of the candidates, and recommend everyone to cooperate and think for the progress and increasing honor of the country.

"I also recommend that the president-elect Dr. Pezeshkian look forward to long and bright horizons with trust in the beneficent God and continue the path of Martyr Raisi to make the best use of enormous capacities of the country, especially the young, revolutionary and faithful human

resources, for the comfort of the people and the progress of the country."

## 'Hand of friendship'

In his first remarks since being declared winner of the runoff vote, Pezeshkian said on national television on Saturday that he will "extend the hand of friendship to everyone."

"We will extend the hand of friendship to everyone; we are all people of this country; we should use everyone for the progress of the country," Pezeshkian said.

Later, he took to X to thank the Iranian people for putting their trust in him, pledging not to let them down.

"Dear people of Iran, the elections are over and this is just the beginning of our togetherness. The difficult path ahead will not be smooth except with your companionship, empathy and trust. I extend my hand to you and I swear on my honor that I will not leave you alone on this path. Don't leave me alone."

## Jalili felicitates

In a message on Saturday, Jalili lauded Friday's vote as a "serious completion in a safe and sound environment" and congratulated his former rival over his victory.

Jalili said the high turnout and transparent election once

again showed the democratic nature of the Islamic Republic of Iran. "Now, it is time for all people in the country to assist the president-elect Pezeshkian to advance the country's status on the international stage".

## Parliamentarian support

Iranian Parliament speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf congratulated Pezeshkian on his election victory and expressed his full support to the 14th administration.

Qalibaf said in a message that the election was held in the best way in line with the Leader's guidance and strategies, and enjoyed the participation of all political groups and tendencies.

The Parliament speaker congratulated Pezeshkian and praised him for placing a premium on internal unity and his vow to follow the policies of the Leader. He also emphasized that the Iranian legislature would cooperate and fully support the 14th Iranian government to help with the progress of the country.

## Mokhber congratulates victor

Iran's Acting President Mohammad Mokhber extended his congratulations to Pezeshkian on winning Iran's 14th presidential election.



● BORNA

Mokhber emphasized that the true winners of the national event are the Iranian people, who have once again demonstrated their determination, steadfastness, and hope throughout different stages of the Islamic Revolution. As the competition concluded, Mokhber expressed hope for a new season of friendship in the country, aiming to build a stronger Iran.

## Interior minister hails turnout

Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi also thanked the people for their participation in the vote and congratulated Pezeshkian on the victory.

Vahidi touched on wrong

analyses and efforts made to suggest that elections in Iran had no meaning, saying the results put the seal on the invalidity of such claims.

## IRGC's support

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) expressed support for and pledged cooperation with the president-elect's administration.

In a message on Saturday, IRGC Commander Major General Hossein Salami congratulated Pezeshkian on the presidential election victory, wishing him success in his tenure.

Paying tribute to the late Iranian president Raisi,

the general expressed the IRGC's full preparedness for cooperation and interaction with the next administration to fulfill the country's needs within the framework of the grand policies outlined by the Leader. Major General Salami also expressed confidence that the mobilization of all capacities and opportunities will lead Iran to victory against the enemy's economic war, stressing that reliance on the domestic capabilities and protection of the Islamic Establishment's might in the international arena for the restoration of the Iranian nation's rights will enable the country to shine globally.

## President-elect showered by worldwide congrats

### International Desk

World leaders and top government officials extended their congratulations to Masoud Pezeshkian on his victory in Iran's presidential runoff election on Friday.

The 69-year-old parliamentarian and heart surgeon garnered more than 16 million votes while his rival, former nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili, got over 13 million out of about 30 million votes cast, with the voter turnout standing at 49.8 percent.

Heads of state of neighboring and regional countries, including Russia, Pakistan, Iraq, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan as well as Persian Gulf Arab states expressed their felicitations to Pezeshkian on his election.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, in his congratulatory message, hoped for the "reinforcement of constructive bilateral cooperation" between Moscow and Tehran.

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari hoped that "fraternal" relations between Pakistan and Iran will "grow further stronger" during his presidency. The country's prime minister, Shehbaz Sharif, on his X account, looked forward to working closely with Pezeshkian, and promoting peace and stability in the region.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, the speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly, expressed confidence in the further consolidation of Tehran-Islamabad ties during his tenure.

Iraqi President Abdul Latif Rashid and the country's prime minister, Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, con-

gratulated the Islamic Republic of Iran and the new Iranian president-elect on his victory. Rashid wrote on X that, "We affirm our keenness to strengthen relations between Iraq and Iran in a way that serves the interests of the two neighboring countries and peoples."

President of the semi-autonomous Kurdistan Region of Iraq Nechirvan Barzani, and Prime Minister Masoud Barzani, in separate messages, congratulated Iran's new chief executive.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, in a congratulatory letter to Pezeshkian, welcomed his electoral success and said Azerbaijan placed "great importance" on relations with Iran.

"I invite you to pay a visit to Azerbaijan to exchange views on the prospects for development of our bilateral cooperation. I convey my best wishes to you, and wish success in your future responsible activities for the prosperity of the friendly and brotherly people of Iran," Aliyev said. Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon also wished success for Iran's president-elect and invited him to visit his country.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan congratulated Pezeshkian and said, "Relations with the brother country of the Islamic Republic of Iran are of special importance for the government and people of the Republic of Armenia."

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan assured that during Pezeshkian's tenure, multilateral and long-term cooperation will reach a higher level in all priority fields.

Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman also congratulated Pezeshkian.

"On the occasion of your victory in the presidential election in the Islamic Republic of Iran, we are pleased to send you our sincere congratulations and best wishes for success, looking forward to continuing to develop relations between our two brother countries and peoples, and continuing coordination and consultation in order to enhance regional and international peace and security."

Bin Salman, for his part, expressed his "sincere congratulations and best wishes for success and further progress and progress for your country and brotherly people," highlighting his "keenness to develop and deepen relations that unite our two countries and peoples, and serve our common interests."

Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani wished Pezeshkian success and the further development and prosperity of joint relations.

UAE President Sheikh Mohamed said he was looking forward to the strengthening of bilateral relations

during Pezeshkian's presidency.

In a post on X, King of Bahrain Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa said that Manama seeks to establish outstanding relations with Iran based on cooperation in a way that benefits both countries.

Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said and Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad Al Sabah sent separate messages of congratulations to Pezeshkian.

Sheikh Meshal wished Pezeshkian "a long healthy life and more prosperity and development for the Islamic Republic."

In his congratulatory message, Kuwaiti Emir wished Pezeshkian a long and healthy life and "more prosperity and development for the Islamic Republic."

## Strategic relationship

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad affirmed the desire of Damascus to strengthen ties with Tehran.

"We are keen to ensure that our relationship remains at its peak," Assad said, adding that he wants to work with Pezeshkian "to strengthen the Syrian-Iranian strategic relationship," and that "resistance will remain the common approach we follow."

## Far Eastern congratulation

In his message to Pezeshkian, President Xi Jinping said, "I attach great importance to the development of China-Iran relations and am willing to work with the President to lead the China-Iran comprehensive strategic partnership towards deeper advancement."

"Faced with complex regional and international situations, China and Iran have always supported each other, worked together and continued to consolidate strategic mutual trust," Xi said.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he looked "forward to working closely" with Pezeshkian

"to further strengthen our warm and long-standing bilateral relationship for the benefit of our peoples and the region."

Japan's Foreign Ministry announced that Tokyo will strengthen dialogue with the new administration in Tehran.

South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in a statement, wished for Iran "a path of prosperity and development under the new government, contributing constructively to regional stability."

Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim wrote in a Facebook posting, "This outcome reflects the vibrant spirit of Iranian democracy and heralds a promising future for Iran."

## 'Absolute support'

The Venezuelan government congratulated the people of Iran for their commitment to democracy in Friday's runoff election that resulted in Pezeshkian's victory.

"Venezuela expresses its conviction that the decision made by the Iranian people will contribute to the prosperity of this nation, as well as its consolidation as an emerging power of the nascent multipolar world," Venezuela's Foreign Minister Yván Gil said in a statement on his X account.

Gil expressed Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's "absolute support" for Pezeshkian "to continue deepening the fraternal relations between both peoples and in the comprehensive strategic alliance for mutually beneficial cooperation."

In a congratulatory message, Serbian President Aleksandar Vučić said that Pezeshkian's presidency would bring prosperity to the nation.

President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko congratulated the cardiac surgeon and invited him for an official visit to his country.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

