



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**Azerbaijan
EXIT POLL**

US GOVERNMENT–SPONSORED EXIT POLL UPDATE

November 1, 2005

As part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen and expand democratic institutions in Azerbaijan, the United States government, represented by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is funding an exit poll for the November 2005 Milli Majlis elections. The exit poll is being designed and conducted by an international team of experts led by PA Consulting Group, based on four key principles: anonymity of respondents, political neutrality, transparency, and professionalism.

PROGRESS REPORT

Field staff: As of today, over 2,750 field staff and more than 80 data entry operators have been carefully screened and hired for participation in the US government-supported exit poll. Members of political parties or political movements, active participants of election campaigns, relatives of candidates, and members of law enforcement bodies have been excluded from working on the USG-funded exit poll.

Anti-fraud measures: PA Consulting Group has designed this exit poll according to best international standards, and is directing and implementing quality control measures for the entire implementation process. For this purpose, PA has had a team of American and international specialists, on the ground in Azerbaijan, continuously since arriving in the first week of September. International practice shows that constant international oversight of the design, field staff recruitment and training, and preparation for fieldwork is critical for successful exit polls. PA Consulting Group has also incorporated a number of methodological and technological control measures into the exit poll, in order to prevent any manipulation of the data. A few examples are:

- In most exit polls, locally-recruited staff working at each polling station are responsible for reporting results back to an information center. For the USG-funded Azerbaijan exit poll, however, PA has modified the methodology so that locally-recruited staff are **NOT** responsible for transmitting results. In fact, locally-recruited staff will not even touch questionnaires, once they have been filled-out by respondents and deposited in the survey box. Instead, in each constituency a Constituency Supervisor from Baku (a professional survey expert, with experience conducting similar projects) will travel in a car around to all polling stations in a district. Only these Constituency Supervisors will have the authority to open the survey box, and to count and transmit preliminary results to our Information Center in Baku.
- All completed surveys will then be physically returned to Baku, and data will be entered a second time into our computer system for verification.

- As another safeguard, PA is working to organize international volunteer observers to accompany Constituency Supervisors, in order to ensure maximum transparency in the process.
- The questionnaires that will be used in the USG-funded Azerbaijan exit poll have been developed with a number of anti-fraud measures. For example, watermarks on each questionnaire will prevent any unauthorized person from making extra copies of blank questionnaires.
- Each time a Constituency Supervisor opens the survey box at a polling station, in order to collect filled-out questionnaires, he will re-seal the survey box with a special sticker. At the end of voting on Election Day, the sealed survey box will then have the slit sealed with another special sticker, in view of the public. This will prevent anyone from inserting extra questionnaires into the survey box.

INFORMATION CENTER

Data from the USG-funded exit poll will be processed at the Exit Poll Information Center that PA has established in Baku. This Information Center contains 32 computers, plus two servers. Data will be entered into the system twice: first, over the telephone from the constituencies, and then the data will be verified after questionnaires are physically transported back to back, and re-entered into the system. Like other exit poll staff, all data entry operators have been thoroughly screened for ties to political parties or movements, election campaigns, candidates, or working for law enforcement agencies.

Special computer software has been developed by PA Consulting Group for the Azerbaijan exit poll. This includes groundbreaking data-entry software in the Azerbaijani language, plus sophisticated data processing software, in order to calculate margins of error, non-response correction, and weighting for to accurately represent the population of voters in each constituency. This special software also includes control software, to allow PA staff to monitor the activities of all data entry operators.

Results from the USG-supported exit poll will be made available to the Azerbaijani public through the USAID Azerbaijan web site: www.usaidazexitpoll.com.

THE 65 CONSTITUENCIES RANDOMLY SELECTED FOR USAID EXIT POLL

USAID and PA Consulting Group are also announcing the list of the 65 Constituencies that have been selected for the USAID Exit Poll. The 65 Constituencies were selected at random, so that every one of the 125 constituencies, including Naxichivan and the IDP constituencies, had the same chance of being selected for the USAID Exit Poll. entirely

The list of Constituencies that have been selected for the USAID Exit Poll are:

Constituency #	Constituency Name
1	Sharur-Sadarak
2	Sharur
3	Babek-Kangarly
7	Ordubad-Gulfa

8	Binaqadi 1
10	Binaqadi 3
11	Garadagh
13	Azizbayov 1
15	Yasamal 1
16	Yasamal 2
17	Yasamal 3
22	Nasimi 2
29	Sabail
30	Surakhani 1
32	Surakhani 3
34	Khatai 2
37	Nizami 1 (Ganja)
39	Kapaz 1 (Ganja)
40	Kapaz 2 (Ganja)
41	Sumgait
44	Sumgait-Absheron
46	Ali Bayramli
47	Mingachevir
48	Yevlakh
51	Gusar
54	Davachi-Siyazan
55	Khachmaz city
56	Khachmaz village
57	Kurdamir
58	Hajigabul-Kurdamir
61	Neftchala
62	Saatli
64	Sabirabad 2
67	Jalilabad city
68	Jalilabad village
69	Jalilabad - Masalli - Bilasuvar
71	Masalli village
72	Yardimli - Masalli
73	Lankaran city

78	Lerik - Lankaran
79	Imishli
82	Aghjabadi
84	Fuzuli
86	Ismaylli
87	Aghsu - Ismailli
88	Goychay
89	Goychay - Aghdash
90	Aghdash
91	Ujar
93	Barda city
94	Barda village
95	Tartar
98	Shamkir city
101	Khanlar - Dashkasan
102	Samukh - Shamkir
104	Gadabay - Tovuz
106	Tovuz - Gazakh
107	Gazakh
109	Balakan
115	Shaki village 2
116	Gabala
119	Aghdam village
123	Kalbajar
124	Shusha-Fuzuli-Khojali-Khogavand
125	Zangilan - Gubadli