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The June 2012 Greek Elections: A Note

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I. Introduction

The Greek general elections of the 6th of May 2012 did not result to the formation of a coalition government. According to the Greek constitution new elections were called for the 17 of June 2012. I have analyzed the May 2012 elections in another paper¹. This note analyzes the June 2012 elections results and compares them with the May 2012.

The five and half weeks between the two elections gave the opportunity to all Greek parties to reconsider their positions and form pre-election coalitions which are based on the three main issues of the May and the June elections. These issues are:

1. The classical ideological division between right and left, or central-right and central left.
2. The split between those who want the euro and those who prefer a return to a national currency.
3. The position between the necessity of the austerity measures imposed by the troika and those who want a unilateral abolishment of them.

Table 1. Typology of Issues

Issue	Options	
	Center-Right	Center-Left
Ideology		
Eurozone-European Union	Pull out	Stay in
Austerity Measures	Necessary	Not Necessary

These issues were discussed in detail in the previous paper. The new elections made even clearer the political parties' positions on the last two issues of the euro and the austerity measures. It should be mentioned that those political parties which consider the austerity measures necessary they also agree that the austerity program needs to be reconsidered towards (a) extending the implementation period and (b) supplementing the austerity program with measures to promote output growth and employment. They consider the new political developments in Europe, primarily the election of Francois Holland in France, as more favorable towards a renegotiation of the austerity measures with the troika.

This note is organized into five sections including this introduction. Section II analyzes the overall election results of June 2012 elections and compares them with the two previous elections. Section III discusses the results in terms of the three issues and compares them with the May 2012 results. Section IV examines the implications of the Greek elections on Greece's future in the eurozone and the European Union. The last section concludes.

¹ This paper can be downloaded from [http://www.atiner.gr/gtp/Papanikos \(2012\)-Elections \(May 2012\).pdf](http://www.atiner.gr/gtp/Papanikos (2012)-Elections (May 2012).pdf)

II. The June 2012 and May 2012 Election Results

Table 1. Greek Elections of June 2012 and May 2012

	People entitled to vote (1)	Number of People Voted (2)	Percent of People Voted (3)	Percent of Voters Abstained (4)
June 2012	9949300	6215029	62.47%	37.53%
May 2012	9949401	6477060	65.10%	34.9%
Difference				
Percentage Change				

III. The Vote on the Three Issues

Table 3. Right and Left

Election Year	June 2012 %	May 2012 %	June 2012/May 2012 % Difference
Ideology			
Right to Center	48.26%	49.00%	-0.74%
Left to Center	51.47%	50.93%	+0.54%

Table 4. In and Out of the Eurozone

Election Year	June 2012 %	May 2012 %	June 2012/May 2012 % Difference
Euro			
In	88.04%	81.92%	+6.12%
Out	11.96%	18.08%	-6.12%

Table 5. Austerity Measures

Election Year	June 2012 %	May 2012 %	June 2012/May 2012 % Difference
Austerity Measures			
Necessary to stay in the Eurozone	52.96%	51.65	1.31%
Not necessary	47.04%	48.35%	-1.31%
Difference	5.92%	3.30%	2.62%

V. Conclusions

The results of the election results of the 17 of June 2012 and of 6 of May 2012 were analyzed along three lines: ideology, political parties stance on the eurozone, and their attitude towards the austerity program. In sum the main points are the following:

1. Although June 2012 elections were considered very important, 37.53% of the eligible Greek voters decided not to vote. This was higher than the May 2012 percentage of 34.9% and even higher than the 29.05% of the 2009 elections. This is not interpreted as political apathy but as a deliberate protest against the political system. Some voters might have abstained because they did not want to vote against their traditionally preferred political party.
2. Contrary to the May 2012 election results, in the June 2012 elections only 5.98% of the electorate is not represented in the parliament because they did not meet the required statutory minimum rate of 3% of the votes. In May 2012, 19% of the Greek voters chose a party that is not represented in the Parliament. The 2009 rate was only 5%.
3. On the ideology issue the percentages remained the same with a very small increase of the left of 0.54%.
4. On the eurozone membership issue, the Greek electorate for the first time in 2012 had the option to vote for parties which openly declared their devotion or hostility to the euro experiment. In May 2012 81.92% of Greeks voted for parties which see Greece's future inside the eurozone. In June 2012 this percentage increased to 88.04%.
5. On the austerity issue, in June 2012, 52.96% of Greeks voted for parties which claim that austerity measures are painful but necessary. In May 2012 the rate was 51.65%.