The purpose of the present study is to examine public opinion in the United Arab Emirates about Emiratis' participation in the election of the Federal National Council (FNC). To this end, a questionnaire was used to collect responses from a random sample of 1800 Emirati citizens. SPSS was utilized. Univariate and bivariate analyses were used to answer the three research questions: do people perceive the FNC election as a positive or negative experience? What are the important criteria to elect a candidate?and what are the predictors of the voting behavior?

Findings of the study reveal that voting behavior was strongly correlated with political awareness, democratic culture, having ambitions to run one day for the FNC, and having a connection with a candidate. Voting behavior was also moderately correlated with factors such as content of election campaigns, scale of campaigns, election promises, what people say about the candidate, family ties with a candidate, and age of the candidate. The study recommended that more studies should be conducted before and after casting votes in order to further understand Emiratis’ voting behavior. In addition, electronic campaigning was emphasized and candidates were recommended to improve political campaigns and not to rely on tribal connections to win the election.

Keywords: Election- Political Participation- National Council- Voting- Emirates.