

ISLAMISTS CLAIM STRONG SHOWING IN EGYPTIAN VOTE BROTHERHOOD PARTY PROJECTED TO LEAD

Leaders say they want
to form coalition

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The Washington Post

CAIRO, Egypt — The Mus-

lim Brotherhood's political

party said Wednesday that

unofficial preliminary results

from this week's parliamen-

tary elections in nine Eryp-

tian provinces show it is in

the lead, followed by a more

conservative Islamist party.

If final results confirm the

projection, which is in line

with what analysts have

been predicting, Islamists

will play a major role in

drafting the constitution.

The process will tackle com-

plicated issues, including the

role of the once universally

venerated Egyptian military

and the extent to which Is-

lam will shape policy.

The Brotherhood's Free-

dom and Justice Party said

its information about prelim-

inary results showed its can-

didates had won as much as

40 percent of the votes cast

Monday and Tuesday, the

first phase of a staggered

three-month election for the

two houses of Parliament.

The party also said candi-

dates associated with the

outlawed National Demo-

cratic Party (NDP), who ran

as independents, did poorly.

The NDP, the party of former

President Hosni Mubarak,

was ruthless toward the

Brotherhood.

"This clearly confirms that

the Egyptian people exer-

cised their right to politically

isolate elements of the for-

mer regime," the Freedom

and Justice Party said.

The Nour Party, run by ul-

tracconservative Muslims

called Salafists, appeared to

have received the second-

highest number of votes, the

Freedom and Justice Party

said. The Egyptian Bloc, a co-

alition of liberal parties, was

reportedly running third.

Kafi El-Sheikh, a spokes-

man for the Nour Party, said

party officials project they

could get 20 to 30 percent of