

The Election in Israel

What to Look for on March 17





The West Bank is Israeli occupied with current status subject to the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement; permanent status to be determined through further negotiation.

The status of the Gaza Strip is a final status issue to be resolved through negotiations.

Israel proclaimed Jerusalem as its capital in 1950, but the United States, like nearly all other countries, retains its Embassy in Tel Aviv-Yafo.

Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative.

1. Israel as the Middle East's Only Continuous Democracy

**2. Foundations: No Constitution; Instead Basic Laws
Passed by the Knesset (Parliament). A Jewish and Democratic State**

**3. Demography: Population 7.5 million. Divisions:
Jews 79%; Arabs 20% (14% Sunni, 3% Christian,
2% Druze); others 1%. Among Jews: Sabras (natives) 39 %; Ashkenazim (Europeans,
including recent immigrants from the former USSR) 36 %; Sephardim or Mizrachim
("Orientals") 25 %**

4. Social Structure and Economy: from Agriculture to Industry to High Tech

**5. The Multiparty System; PR and the Threshold for Seats—Now 3.25%
(compared to 10% in Turkey, 5% in Germany)**

6. From One-Party Dominance by Labor (Mapai) to a close division between left” and “right”: Likud wins in 1977 (Begin); 1984: National Unity (Peres, Shamir); 1988, again National Unity (Shamir; Rabin and Peres in cabinet); Rabin assassinated 1995; 1996 Netanyahu becomes PM.

7. Labor under Barak wins in 1998; the 2001 Election results in a Likud-Labor Coalition, Ariel Sharon as PM 2001-2006; succeeded by Ehud Olmert.

10. The Confusing Results of the 2009 Election: a Center-Right Coalition headed by Netanyahu.

11. The 2013 Election: another Coalition; Netanyahu remains PM.

The 2009 Election

Results in Knesset Seats (120)

Kadima 28 (Livni)

Likud 27 (Netanyahu)

Labor 13 (Barak)

Yisrael Beiteinu 15 (Lieberman)

Shas 11

Meretz 3

United Torah Judaism 5

Jewish Home 3

National Union 4

Hadash 4

United Arab List 4

Balad 3

The 2013 Election

Likud Beytenu: **31** (Netanyahu, Lieberman coalition)

Yesh Atid (There is a Future: Yair Lapid, secularist, middle class): **19**

Labor: **15**

HaBayit HaYehudi: (The Jewish Home; Rafael Bennett) **12**

Shas: **11**

Meretz: (left-wing) **6**

Hatnuah (centrist, Tzipi Livni): **6**

Yahadut HaTorah (religious): **7**

Hadash: (Jewish-Arab) **4**

Ra'am Ta'al (Arab): **4**

Balad (Arab): **3**

Kadima (Centrist): **2**

Issues and Cleavages

1. The cost of living
2. Secularism and Ultra-Orthodox Judaism

the draft; civil marriage; subsidies; Jewish identity

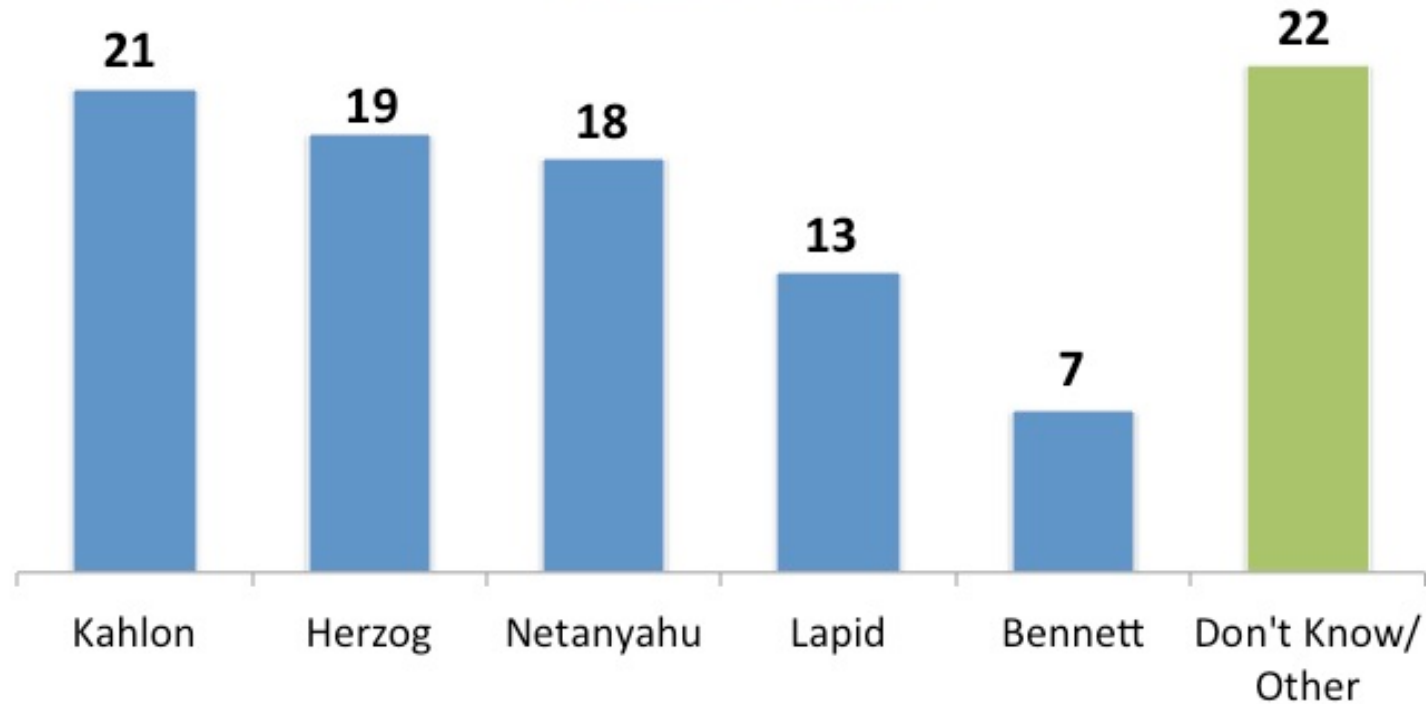
1. Compromise with Palestinians or Annexation
2. Security

Strategy vis a vis Hamas

Iran's nuclear bomb

Mixed Perceptions on Economic Leadership

Between the following 5 people, who would you most trust to improve Israel's economy?
[ALL LIKELY VOTERS]



THE LEADERBOARD (alias the “Jews Who” of the 2015 Election in Israel)

Binyamin (Bibi) Netanyahu: current PM, leader of Likud

Tzipi Livni: current Justice Minister (ex Likud, Kadimah, Hatnuah) joint head of Zionist Camp Party

Isaac (Bougie) Herzog: leader of the Labor Party, joint head of Zionist Camp Party

Avigdor Lieberman: current Foreign Minister, head of Israel Our Home Party (“Russians”)

Yair Lapid: head of There is a Future Party

Moshe Kahlon: head of Kulanu (All of Us) Party

Rafael Bennett: head of (Habayit ha-Yehudi) The Jewish Home Party (West Bank settlers)

Amos Yadlin: former head of Military Intelligence, on Zionist Camp List

Yoav Galant: military leader, No. 2 on Kulanu Party List

Michael Oren: former ambassador to U.S., No. 3 on Kulanu Party List

Shaul Mofaz: military leader, undecided

Eli Ohana: soccer player, added, then dropped by Bennett

Aryeh Deri former leader of Shas Party (Sephardi Ultra-Orthodox)

Eli Yishai, leader of Together (Yachad –Ha-am Itanu), breakaway from Shas

Michael Ben-Ari, head of Otzma Yehudit (Strong Israel), far right



Right 51 Seats

- Kulanu 8
- Israel Beiteinu 6
- Likud 24
- Jewish Home 13

Center-Left 38 Seats

- Meretz 5
- Zionist Union 24
- Yesh Atid 9

Arab Parties 12 Seats

- United List 12

Ultra-Orthodox 19 Seats

- Shas 8
- UTJ 7
- Yachad-Ha'am Itanu 4