



The Central Elections Committee
for the 23rd Knesset

Information Sheet of the Central Elections Committee Elections for the Knesset

“The appointed time, the time for democracy, is not to be missed. It is democracy to which our lives are connected, it is democracy that we will not relinquish, it is democracy in its wisdom. Tomorrow you will decide, and you, tomorrow we shall all decide, who will be chosen for the Knesset and what will be the configuration of the next Government ...tomorrow it will be we who decide who sits in the Knesset, and indirectly, who will be in the Government; we will decide who will determine the order of business tomorrow and the days to follow; we will decide who determines what is done in the State and society of Israel.”

*(The Honorable Justice Michael Cheshin z”l, Supreme Court Justice,
Chairman of the Central Elections Committee for the 16th Knesset)*

Principles of the Election Procedure for the Knesset

Section 4 of the Basic Law: the Knesset, mandates that the Knesset be chosen in elections that are:

- General – all citizens of the State, age 18 and above, have the right to participate.
- National – the entire State of Israel is considered a single electoral district for the purpose of calculating the results of the election.
- Direct- winners are determined directly according to the vote of each person, in other words, not by an intermediary body, and not by proxies.
- Equitable – each voter has one ballot. All voters are equal in their power to influence the election. Another aspect of equality is the obligation to ensure the equal opportunity of each candidate list running for election to the Knesset.
- Confidential -. Confidential ballots are in order to prevent pressure or unfair influence on the voter, which could prevent the voter from casting a ballot according to individual inclination and preference.
- Proportional- mandates for the Knesset are allocated according to the proportion of votes given to each party list.

Elections for the 23rd Knesset will take place on

Vav Adar 5780 – March 2, 2020



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The Right to Vote

The right to vote is a legal right protected by Section 5 of the Basic Law: The Knesset. This Law is extended to every Israeli citizen who meets the following conditions:

- On the date of the election for Knesset, the citizen has reached the age of at least 18 years and over (was born on 02/03/2002 or before this date).
- The citizen is listed in the Voters List as an Israeli citizen who is recorded in the Population Registry no later than Yud Bet Tevet 5780 (09/01/2020).
- The citizen is registered as a resident of Israel, whose name and address in Israel appear in the Population Registry.

The Voters List will be publicized on the Internet, and every voter can ascertain the polling place at which they are registered to vote. It is also possible to check the location of the polling place through The Telephone Information Center, by fax or text message. Information about options for checking locations is displayed on the Ministry of the Interior website.

Where to Vote

- Each voter is authorized to vote at their assigned polling place, and only at their assigned place. The principle of voters being restricted only to their assigned polling place is in order to facilitate proper and efficient administration of the voting process.
- As indicated, every voter can check the address of the polling place to which they are assigned on the Central Election Committee website, www.gov.il/apps/moin/bocharim. Additionally, each voter receives a notice in the mail, at their listed address, with the location of their polling place. Further, a Telephone Information Center for clarifications will operate during the days leading up to the election for clarifications, in Hebrew, English, Arabic, Russian, and Amharic. The number of the Information Center is 1-800-201-091. Information is also available by text from 050-8085503 or from a computerized answering service by calling 1-801-700-209, or by fax from 1-800-201-089.
- Exceptions to the Rule of Assigned Polling Places - The Knesset Elections Law mandates a number of exceptions to the rule of assigned polling places in situations in which a voter is prevented from travelling to the assigned polling place, for example persons who have



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limited mobility because of their physical condition, persons who are hospitalized or are in prison, soldiers, and diplomatic representatives overseas. In such instances, voting takes place in special polling places, with the use of double envelopes.

- A voter with a mobility disability can vote at a polling place designed for accessibility, and voting arrangements are adapted for voters with limited mobility.
- The voter must declare in writing before the secretary of the polling place that they have a mobility disability (as far as the disability is not visible) and they will then be permitted to use the accessible voting facility.

Note- the opportunity to vote at an accessible polling place for voters with limited mobility using double envelopes is meant to ease the process for voters with a mobility disability, and enable them to exercise their right to vote. False statements about a mobility disability in order to use a polling place at which a voter is not registered is liable to cause overcrowding at accessible polls, to the detriment of the voting of persons with disabilities.

Therefore, a person who falsely declares that they have limited mobility and in fact does not, is liable to receive a sentence of half a year in prison or a fine.

Locations of accessible polling stations are available from the Telephone Information Center, *8354, and the Central Election Committee website under the heading "Elections for the 23rd Knesset."

Election Day

Election Day is an official holiday off work; however, public transportation will operate normally, as will other public services determined by the Central Elections Committee (restaurants, theaters, cinemas, water and electricity plants, hospitals, emergency and rescue services, etc.). It should be noted that intercity public transportation will be free of charge on Election Day, for the general use of voters who reside far from their polling place. Details are available on the website of the Central Elections Committee, under the heading Elections for the 23rd Knesset.

During Election Day, Election Inspectors empowered by the Central Elections Committee will circulate among polling stations in order to ensure that voting processes are conducted properly. The Inspectors will be equipped with cameras; however, it should be emphasized that



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there will be no use of cameras to photograph voters except in extraordinary circumstances in order to prevent counterfeit votes

Voting Hours

In most locations, polling places are open on Election Day from 7:00 a.m. until 22:00 p.m. In small communities, the voting hours are from 8:00 a.m. until 20:00 p.m. These hours are also in effect in hospitals, prisons, and detention centers. At 22:00 p.m., the doors to polling places are locked (20:00 p.m. in small communities).

Voters who arrive at a polling place before the doors are closed, but have not yet voted, are still eligible to vote, even past the time that the polling place is closed.

Voting With Double Envelopes

As noted, there are certain situations in which a voter casts a ballot at a polling place other than the one in which they are registered; this is only in cases in which the voter is prevented from reaching their registered place. The law determines that in light of such impediment, these voters are permitted to vote at a different polling place (for example, soldiers, hospital patients, persons in jail or detention centers, and similar).

In such circumstances, a thorough check is conducted to ascertain whether the voter has voted twice, by means of the sealed ballot envelope, which is inserted into an outer envelope (double envelope), upon which the voter's personal details are listed. At the conclusion of Election Day, all of the external envelopes are collected and examined to determine whether any voter who used a double envelope also voted at the polling place at which they were registered, in order to prevent double votes.

Only following this check are the external envelopes opened, and the internal envelopes collected, opened, and counted by the Polling Committees located within the Knesset. These Committees, which are identical in identity to regular polling committees, count the votes in these envelopes.



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Ballots for the Knesset

In Israel, elections for the Knesset are elections for lists of candidates presented by each party. Each list is represented by an initial or initials as well as a party name. The letters and name appear on the ballot. At the time of voting, the voter is presented with ballots for every party, and chooses the ballot of the list for which they wish to vote. The party names and initials of candidate lists are publicized in the press and on the website of the Central Elections Committee.

The Voting Process

In order to vote, present one of the following identification documents to the Polling Committee:

- *Te'udat zehut* with photograph
 - Valid Israeli passport with photograph
 - Valid Israeli driver's license with photograph
 - Valid soldier's certificate (*te'udat hoger*) with photograph
 - Certificate of membership in the 22nd Knesset
- A. Once the voter's name is located on the Voters List, the voter then receives a violet-blue colored envelope upon which the words "Elections for the 23rd Knesset" appear.
- B. The voter enters the voting booth **alone**. The only exception is for a voter who cannot vote alone because of illness or physical disability. In such a situation, the voter may be accompanied by someone to assist with the voting procedure. The accompanying individual may not be the director or employee of a nursing home or other facility in which the voter resides, and may not accompany more than 2 persons on Election Day.
- C. Before the voter is a display of ballots for each candidate list. There are also blank white slips and a blue pen.

The voter selects the ballot of the candidate list for which they wish to vote. Voters may choose **one ballot only**, which they then insert into the envelope. The voter must seal the envelope. A voter may also use a blank white slip to cast a ballot. When doing so, the voter must indicate on the slip, in his/her own writing (in Hebrew or Arabic only) the name and initials of the list for which they wish to vote.

It is important to note that blank white slips on which the voter has not written, in



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blue ink only, an initial or an initial and name of a list of candidates, are invalid.

- D. Place only one ballot into the envelope. If two or three ballots for the same list are found in one envelope, the vote is valid and only one ballot is counted, but if there are **more than three ballots** in the envelope for the same list, or ballots for different lists, the **vote is disqualified**.
- E. The voter exits the booth carrying the sealed envelope, and personally places the closed envelope into the ballot box, in view of members of the polling committee.

Election Results

1. Each list of candidates that passes the electoral threshold, that is, receives at least 3.25% of all the legitimate votes, participates in the allocation of mandates.
2. The total number of legitimate votes for all lists that participate in the allocation of mandates is divided by 120, and the resulting number is the “index.”
3. Each list of candidates receives Knesset seats according to the total number of votes received as divided by the “index.”

The surplus votes are then allocated according to law, (according to the “Bader-Ophir” method.)

Original Hebrew text:

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