

The Central Elections Committee Guide to Knesset Elections

“The appointed time, the time for democracy, is not to be missed. This is the democracy to which our lives are connected, democracy which we will not forfeit, democracy in all its glory. Tomorrow you will decide, tomorrow each of us will decide, who will serve in the Knesset and what will be the character of the next government... Tomorrow we will decide who will sit in the Knesset, and indirectly, who will be in the government; we will decide who will determine the agenda for tomorrow and the days to come; we will decide who will determine what will be done in the State and society of Israel.”

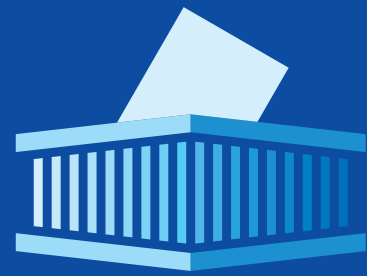
(Justice Mishael Cheshin z"l, Supreme Court Justice, Chairman of the Central Elections Committee for the 16th Knesset)

Principles of the Knesset Elections Procedure

Article 4 of Basic Law: The Knesset establishes that elections for the Knesset are to be:

- General - every citizen of the State of Israel aged 18 or over, has the right to vote;
- National - the entire country is considered a single electoral district in terms of vote counting;
- Direct - deputies are elected directly by each voter - in other words, not by an intermediary body, and not by proxy;
- Equitable - each voter has one vote - all voters are equal in their power to influence the election. Another aspect of equality is the obligation to ensure an equal opportunity for every list of candidates running in the Knesset elections;
- Confidential - secret voting prevents the exertion of pressure or undue influence on voters, which could prevent them from casting a ballot according to their individual inclinations and preferences;
- Proportional - Knesset seats are allocated in proportion of votes received by each party list.

**Elections for the 25th Knesset will take place on
Cheshvan 7, 5783 – November 1, 2022**



The Right to Vote

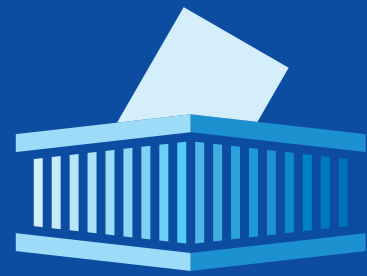
The right to vote is a legal right protected by Article 5 of Basic Law: The Knesset. This right is extended to every Israeli citizen who meets the following criteria:

- On the date of the elections for Knesset, the citizen has reached the age of 18 years and over (was born on or before October 22, 2004);
- The citizen is listed in the Voters Registry as an Israeli citizen who was registered in the Population Registry no later than Elul 2, 5782 (September 8, 2022);
- The citizen is registered as a resident of Israel, whose name and address in Israel appear in the Population Registry. Citizens may verify their information in the Voters Registry and find the address of their assigned polling station on the Internet, by phone, fax or SMS. Contact information for these options is displayed on the Ministry of the Interior website.

Where to Vote

- Each voter is authorized to vote only at their assigned polling station. This restriction to an assigned polling station enables to manage the voting process properly and efficiently.
- As stated above, each voter can check the address of their assigned polling station on the Ministry of Interior website: <https://www.gov.il/apps/moin/bocharim/>. Additionally, a notice is sent to each voter by post, to their registered address, indicating the location of their polling station. Additionally, on Election Day and in the days prior, a Call Center will operate in Hebrew, English, Arabic, Russian, and Amharic. The phone number of the Call Center is 1-800-222-290. Information is also available by SMS at 050-8085500 or by fax at 1-800-222-291.
- Exceptions to the requirement to vote at the assigned polling station - The Knesset Elections Law determines exceptions to this requirement for voters who are prevented from reaching their assigned polling station, for instance people whose mobility is impaired, people who are hospitalized, people in prison, soldiers, and diplomatic representatives overseas. In such instances, voting takes place at special polling stations, using double envelopes. People in quarantine due to Covid-19 will be voting at special polling stations. Additional polling stations will be set up in elder care facilities and special institutions which meet the legal criteria. In these instances, voting takes place at special polling stations, using double envelopes.
 - A voter with impaired mobility may vote at a specially designated accessible polling station, which is located in a place with appropriate accessibility provisions.
 - If the voter's impairment is not clearly visible and he has no document proving his impairment, the voter will have to sign a declaration in front of the polling station chairperson testifying to his impaired mobility. Then he will be allowed to vote at such a station.

Note: The option to vote at an accessible polling station and using double envelopes is meant to ease the process of voting for people with impaired mobility and to ensure their right to vote. A voter who is not mobility impaired but who signs a false declaration in order to vote at a special polling station, would cause overcrowding and prejudice to voters with real disabilities. Therefore, a person who would falsely declare that his mobility is impaired may be fined or sentenced up to 6 months in prison.



Locations of special accessible polling stations are available at the Call Center, 1-800-222-292, and the Central Election Committee website under the heading "All the Information about the Upcoming Elections."

Election Day

Election Day is a statutory holiday - however, public transportation will operate normally, as well as other public services as determined by the Central Elections Committee. The full list of such services can be found on the Central Elections Committee website, under the heading "All the Information about the Upcoming Elections."

Note that intercity public transportation, including trains, will be free of charge on Election Day, for the benefit of the public and for those who are far from their assigned polling station. Details will be published on the Central Elections Committee website.

On Election Day, Election Inspectors from the Central Elections Committee will circulate among polling stations to ensure that voting processes are conducted properly. The Inspectors will be equipped with cameras; however, it must be emphasized that there will be no use of these cameras to photograph voters, except in extraordinary circumstances to prevent fraud.

Voting Hours

In most locations, polling stations operate on Election Day from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. In small communities, the voting hours are from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. These shortened hours are also in effect in hospitals, prisons, and detention centers. The polling stations for people in quarantine will be opened from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm. The voting hours in special institutions and elder care facilities will be publicized in those locations as well as on the Central Elections Committee website.

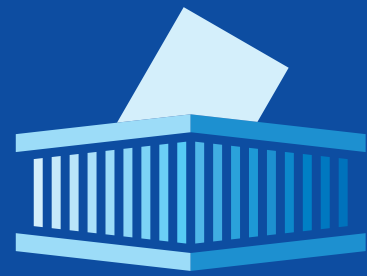
Voters who arrive at their polling station before the doors close, but did not cast their votes before closing time, are still eligible to vote, even after the polling station is closed

Voting With Double Envelopes

As noted, there are certain situations in which a voter casts a ballot at a polling station other than the one to which he is assigned. This is allowed only in cases in which the voter is unable to reach his assigned station, and the law determines situations in which the voter is entitled the vote in a different polling station (e.g. soldiers, hospitalized patients, women in shelters, prisoners, and detainees.)

In such circumstances, the voter must seal his voting envelope and place it inside a second, exterior envelope, on which the voter's personal information is written. At the end of Election Day, all exterior envelopes are checked to

ensure that no one voted twice. Only after this procedure is completed, all the exterior envelopes are opened, and the internal voting envelopes are collected, opened and counted by the Counting Committees located within the Knesset, which are identical in their composition to the Polling Station Committees.



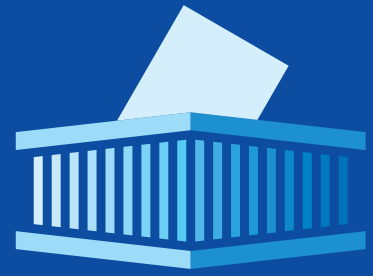
Knesset Voting Slips (Ballots)

In Israel, elections for the Knesset involve voting for candidate lists presented by one party or a number of parties. Each list is represented by letters as well as a name. The letters and name appear on the ballot.

The names and representative letters of all current candidate lists are publicized in the press and on the Central Elections Committee website and will also be posted on the screen of the voting booth.

The Voting Process

1. In order to vote, a voter must present one of the following ID documents to the Polling Station Committee:
 - Te'udat zehut with photograph
 - Valid Israeli passport with photograph
 - Valid Israeli driver's license with photograph
 - Valid soldier's certificate (Te'udat Choger) with photograph
 - Certificate of membership in the 24rd Knesset
2. Once the voter's name is located on the Polling Station Committee's voters list, the voter then receives an indigo-blue colored envelope upon which the words "Elections for the 25th Knesset" appear. The envelope must bear the signatures of two Polling Station Committee members.
3. The voter enters the voting booth alone. The only exception to this is in the case of a voter who cannot do the required physical motions due to illness or physical disability. In such a situation, the voter may be accompanied by someone to assist him 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 voters on Election Day.
4. In the voting booth are ballots for each candidate list. There are also blank white slips and a blue pen. The voter may place exactly one ballot for his chosen candidate list into the envelope. The voter must seal the envelope. A voter may also use a blank white slip to cast a ballot. To do so, the voter must indicate on the slip, in his own writing (in Hebrew or Arabic only) the name and letters 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 blue ink the name and/or letters of one party are invalid and will be added to the count of disqualified votes.
5. The voter has to 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, in the envelope, the envelope is disqualified, and is added to the count of disqualified votes.
6. 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 Station Committee. At that point, the committee returns the voter's ID card



The Election Results

1. Each list of candidates that passes the electoral threshold – receives at least 3.25% of all the valid votes – participates in the allocation of mandates.
 2. The total number of valid votes for all lists that participate in the allocation of mandates is divided by 120, and the resulting number is used as the “index.”
 3. Each list of candidates receives Knesset seats according to the total number of votes received, divided by the “index.” The whole number quotient is the number of seats that each party receives.
- The remaining Knesset seats are then allocated according to the “Bader-Ofer” method of calculation.



ועדת הבחירות המרכזית לכנסת

Original Hebrew text and English translation:
The 25th Knesset Central Elections Committee
www.bechirot.gov.il

משרד העלייה והקליטה
Ministerio de Aliá y de Integración



English Translation from the text "Elections for the 25th Knesset"

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Service for new immigrants

www.klita.gov.il

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