

**The Central Elections Committee
for the 18th Knesset**

Elections for the 18th Knesset

The Knesset Electoral System

Elections for the Knesset are:

General – all citizens of the State age 18 and above have the right to participate.

National – for the purpose of calculating the results of the election, the entire country is considered a single electoral district.

Direct- winners are determined directly according to the results of the voting (and not indirectly, such as the system in the United States, where the president is elected by regional delegates to the Electoral College). In Israel, voters cast a ballot in favor of a list of candidates.

Equitable – each voter has one ballot. All voters are equal in their power to influence the outcome of the election.

Secret- no one but the voter knows how he cast his ballot. Secrecy is guaranteed in the following ways:

Sealed, lined envelopes that prevent anyone from seeing the ballot slip inside.

Voting booths that prevent the voter from being seen when he chooses his ballot and places it into the envelope.

Each voter is free to vote according to his/her will, and no other individual can know how he/she cast their vote.

Note: Elections will take place on February 10, 2009.

Election Results

1. Each list of candidates that receives at least 2% of the legitimate votes participates in the distribution of mandates.
2. The total number of legitimate votes for all lists that participate in the distribution 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.”

What is the “Voters List”?

The Voters List is a list of all those who hold the right to vote for the Knesset. All persons listed in the Voters List have the right to vote.

Every person who fulfills the following three conditions is eligible to be listed:

- *S/he has held Israeli citizenship as of 18/12/2008.
- *S/he has reached 18 years of age no later than the date of the election, e.g. their date of birth is no later than 10/2/1991.
- *His/her name and address have appeared in the Population Registration as of 18/12/2008.

In order to clarify your polling place, you can view the Voters List via the Internet: www.gov.il. Details regarding the dates during which the Voters List will be available online can be found on the Central Elections Committee Website: www.bechirof.gov.il.

Where to Vote

*On the day of the election, and a few days before, the Central Elections Committee will maintain telephone information centers that also supply the exact location of the polling station. Telephone numbers will be publicized in the press.

*The ambulatory disabled can vote in special polling stations designed for accessibility. Addresses of these polling stations are available from the telephone information centers.

*Voting will be facilitated in hospitals, prisons, Israeli ships, and Israeli diplomatic missions abroad.

*Approximately three weeks prior to the elections a notice will be sent to each voter containing the exact address on the polling station at which he/she is registered. A map of polling stations may be viewed at: www.gov.il.

Election Day

Election day is considered an official holiday off of work, however public transportation will operate normally. All polling stations are open on election day from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. In small communities where the number of voters is less than 350, the voting hours are from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Those still waiting in line when the polling stations close will be permitted to vote, but one who arrives after closing time will not be permitted to vote.

In order to vote it is necessary to produce one of the following identification documents:

- Te'udat zehut* with photograph.
- Valid Israeli passport with photograph.
- Valid Israeli driver's license with photograph.
- Knesset member's certificate.

The Polling Station and the Voting Booth

The voting process is as follows:

The voter identifies himself to the polling committee with one of the documents listed above.

Once the voter's name is located on the voters list, the voter then receives an envelope with the words "Elections for the 18th Knesset" appearing on it. The envelopes are sealed and darkened inside, and have the stamp of the Central Elections Committee, the head of the Central Elections Committee, and the signatures of two members of the polling committee.

The voter enters the voting booth. Inside is a display of voting slips for each candidate list. There are also blank white slips.

Knesset Ballots for Every Party List

Voters cast their ballots for a list of candidates. Each candidate list is represented on a ballot by an initial or initials as well as by the name of the party. The party names of candidate lists and their corresponding initials are publicized in the press.

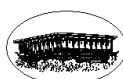
The Voting Process is as Follows:

The voter selects a slip for the list of candidates he/she wishes to vote for. Voters may choose one slip only, which is then placed into the envelope. The voter must close the envelope. One may also use a blank slip to cast a ballot. In such a case the voter must indicate on the slip, in his/her own writing (in Hebrew or Arabic only) the name and initials of the list he/she is casting a vote for.

The voter then exits the booth, and personally places the closed envelope into the ballot box, in view of members of the polling committee.

It is important for the voter to obey any further instructions on the part of election officials in order to ensure secrecy.

Only one ballot may be placed into the envelope. An envelope found to contain 2 or more slips from different lists, or 3 or more slips for the same list, is invalid. An envelope that contains 2 slips for the same list is considered valid, although only one vote will be counted.



Original Hebrew text:
**The Central Elections Committee
for the 18th Knesset**
www.bechirot.gov.il



English translation of the "Elections for the 18th Knesset" Information Sheet
Produced As a Service For New Immigrants
By the **Publications Department, The Ministry of Immigrant Absorption**
www.moia.gov.il

Jerusalem 2008 / 2009 - All Rights Reserved - ©