



The Central Elections Committee for the 19th Knesset

Elections for the 19th Knesset

The Knesset Electoral System

Elections for the Knesset are:

General – Every citizen of the State of Israel over the age of 18 years has the right to participate in elections.

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.

Equal – Every citizen has one vote. All voters are equal in their power to influence the outcome of the election.

Secret- No one but the voter knows how s/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 choosing a ballot and placing it into the envelope.

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

Note: Elections will take place on January 22, 2013 (11 Shevat, 5773)

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 is an Israeli citizen who received Israeli citizenship and was registered in the Civil Registry no later than December 18, 2012.
- His/her date of birth is no later than January 22, 1995.
- S/he was registered as a resident in Israel, and his/her name and address in Israel appear in the Civil Registry no later than December 18, 2012.

The Voters List and polling stations will be publicized via the Internet at <http://www.pnim.gov.il>. Details regarding the dates during which the Voters List will be available online can be found on the Central Elections Committee Website: <http://www.bechirof.gov.il>.

Where to Vote

On the day of the elections, 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 at these polling stations will utilize double envelopes.

Voters whose addresses are listed in one of the former Gush Katif or Shomron settlements may vote in any polling station that is defined as "accessible" and in the polling station of the Nitzan settlement.

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 of the polling station at which he/she is registered. A map of polling stations may be viewed at: <http://www.gov.il>.

Elections Day

Elections day is considered an official holiday off of work, though public transportation will operate normally. All polling stations are open on elections day from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. In small communities where the number of voters is smaller than 350, the voting hours are from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm. 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 only one of the following identification documents:

- **Israeli ID card with photograph**
- **Valid Israeli passport with photograph**
- **Valid Israeli driver's license with photograph**

The Polling Station and the Voting Booth

The steps involved in voting are as follows:

1. The voter identifies himself to the polling committee with one of the documents listed above.
2. Once the voter's name is located on the voters list, the voter then receives an envelope with the words "Elections for the 19th Knesset" appearing on it. The envelopes are sealed and darkened inside, and have the stamp of the Central Elections Committee, the chairman of the Central Elections Committee, and the signatures of two members of the polling committee.
3. 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 and on the Central Elections Committee website (<http://www.bechirot.gov.il>).

The Voting Process is as Follows:

1. 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 for which s/he is casting a vote.
2. The voter then exits the booth, and personally places the closed envelope into the ballot box, in view of members of the polling committee.

3. It is important for the voter to obey any further instructions on the part of election officials in order to ensure order and safety.
4. 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.

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