

## Select Findings

# The Israeli Democracy Index

# 2019

**Tamar Hermann**

Or Anabi / William Cubbison / Ella Heller



THE ISRAEL  
DEMOCRACY  
INSTITUTE

# The Israeli Democracy Index

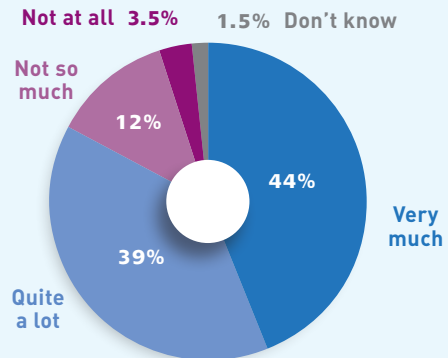
This annual index examines the most significant, and often most complex, dilemmas and trends facing Israeli society in relation to its democratic values and their effect on the functionality of both the country's institutions and its elected officials.

This analysis seeks to provide a positive contribution to public discourse on the state of Israeli democracy and to create a broad database in order to further enrich this discussion

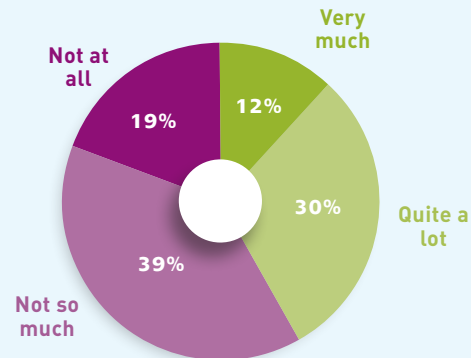


## Feel a Part of the State of Israel and Share its Problems

### Jews

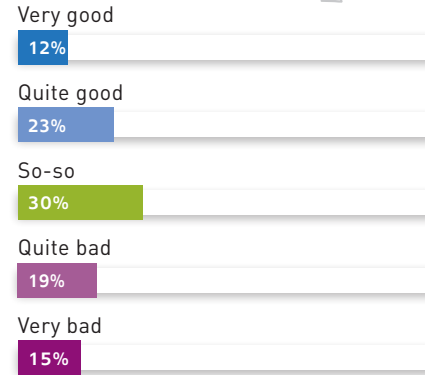


### Arabs

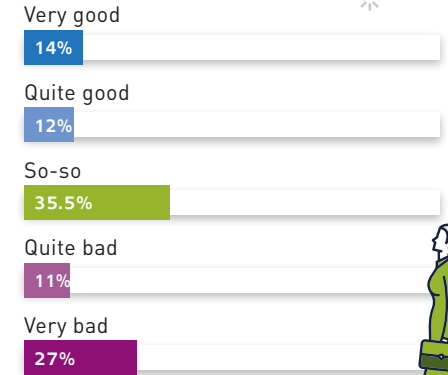


# The State of Democracy in Israel

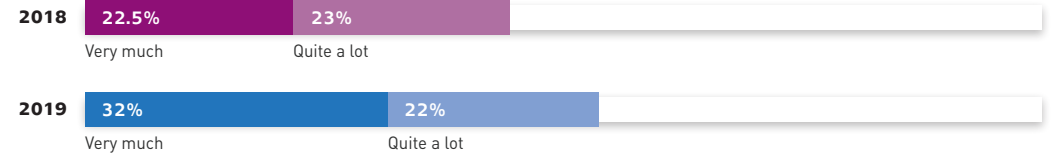
## Jews



## Arabs



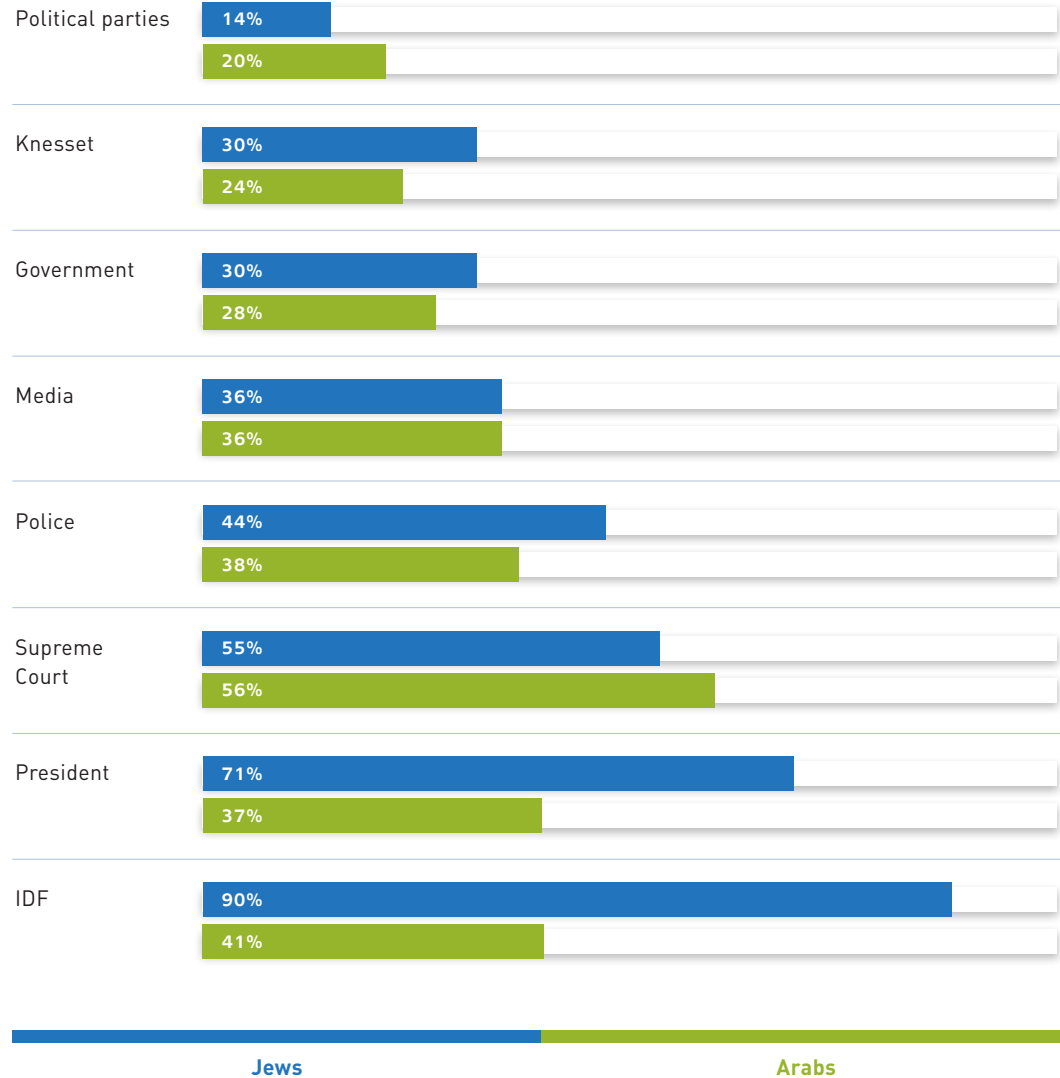
## Israeli democracy is in grave danger (total sample)



## Agree that Israeli democracy is in grave danger, by political affiliation (Jewish respondents)

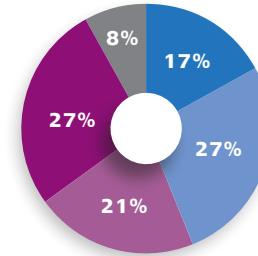


## Which State Institutions do Israelis Trust?

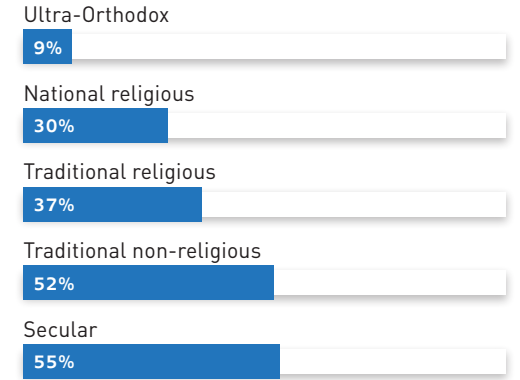


## The Judicial System

The courts give equal treatment to everyone who appears before them (total sample)

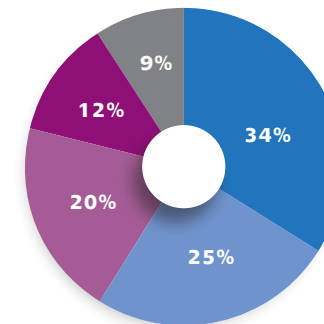


The courts give equal treatment to everyone who appears before them (Jewish respondents)



To what extent are the legal rulings of Supreme Court justices influenced by their political views?

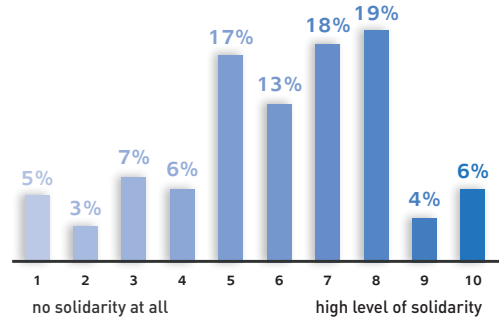
(total sample)



# Israeli Society

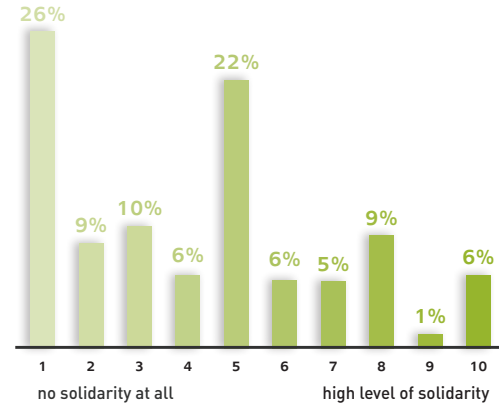
## How would you rate the level of solidarity among Jewish Israelis

(Jewish respondents)

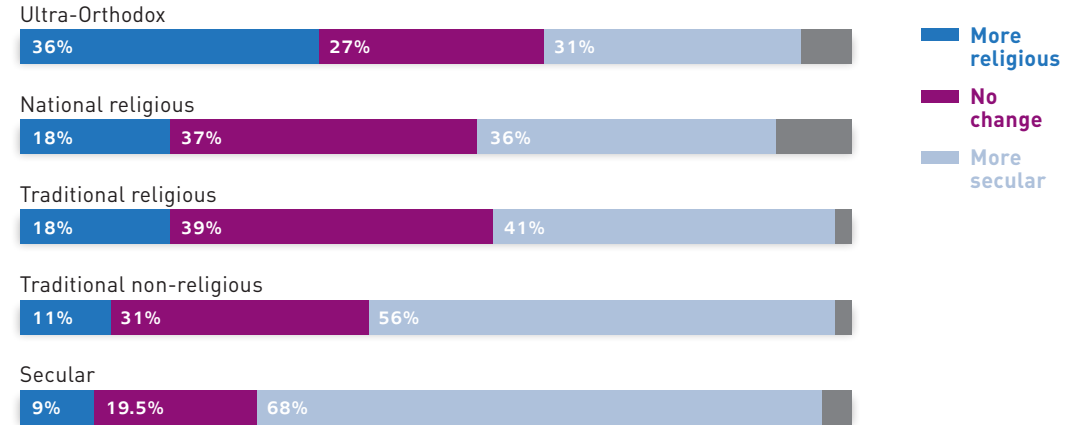


## How would you rate the level of solidarity among Arab Israelis

(Arab respondents)



## Has Jewish society in Israel become more secular, more religious, or remained unchanged? (Jewish respondents)



## The integration of Jewish immigrants from Arab countries (Mizrahim) after the establishment of the State (Jewish respondents)

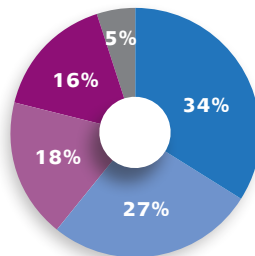
Mistakes were certainly made in integrating Jewish immigrants from Arab countries in the early years of the State, but they were made in good faith, without bad intentions



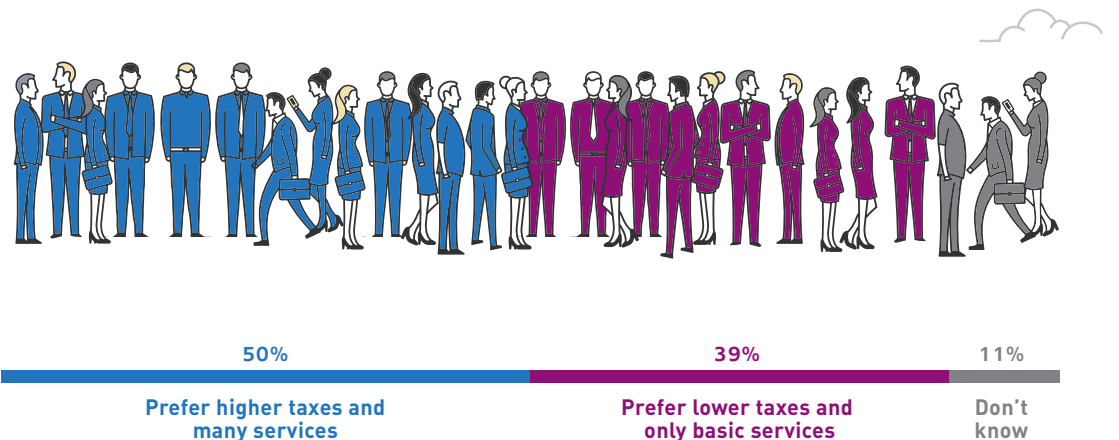
These were not just mistakes; the Ashkenazi leadership of the State looked down on Jewish immigrants from Arab countries and on their culture



## The tension between Ashkenazim and Mizrahim is perpetuated only because politicians exploit it for their own purposes (Jewish respondents)

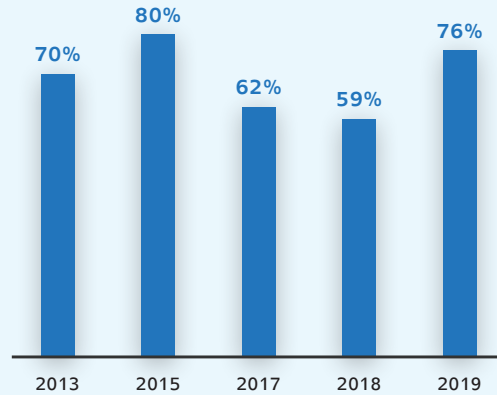


## Do you prefer to live in a country where taxes are higher but citizens receive many free services from the state, or in a country where taxes are lower but citizens receive only a few basic services from the state? (total sample)

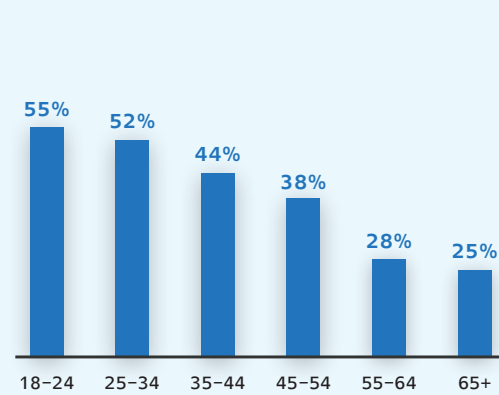


## IDF—The People’s Army?

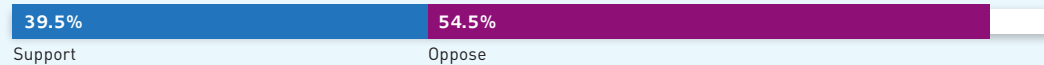
The definition of the IDF as the “people’s army” accurately describes it today  
(Jewish respondents)



Support the abolition of mandatory enlistment and turning the IDF into a professional army  
(by age group, Jewish respondents)

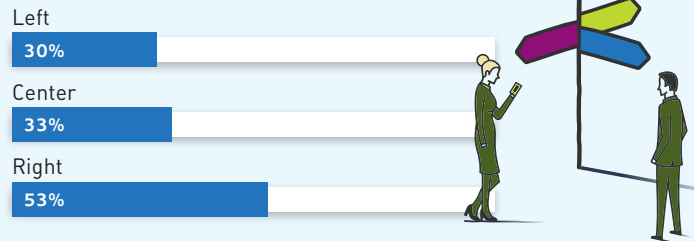


What is your opinion of the proposal to abolish mandatory enlistment and turn the IDF into a professional army? (Jewish respondents)



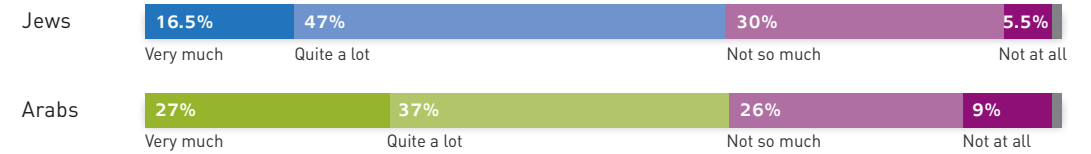
**46%** of respondents believe that the professional decisions of high-ranking IDF officers are influenced by their political views

Agree that the professional decisions of high-ranking IDF officers are influenced by their political views  
(by political orientation, Jewish respondents)

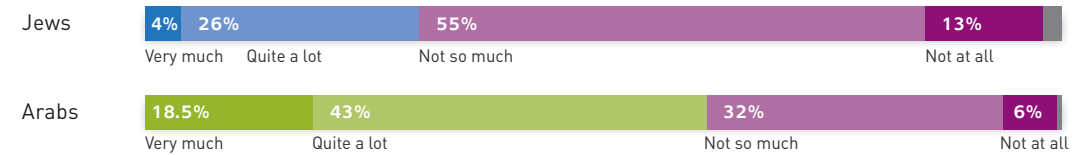


## Quality of Government Services

To what extent does the State of Israel ensure the **security** of its citizens?

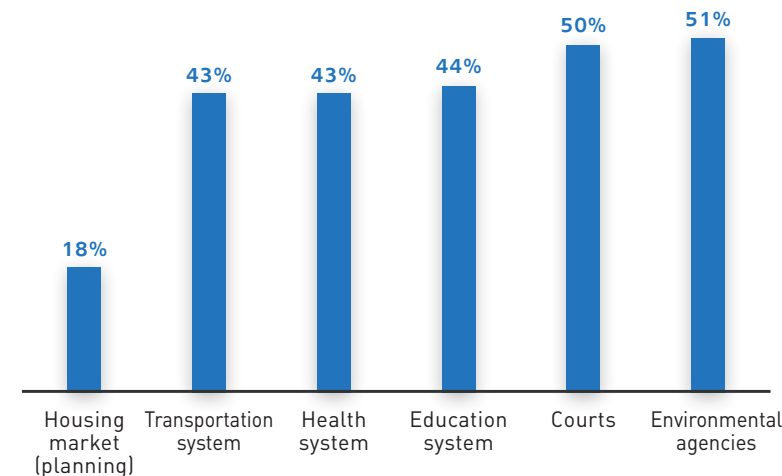


To what extent does the State of Israel ensure the **welfare** of its citizens?



The functioning of government service agencies

(very good or quite good, total sample)



**67%** of respondents believe that the professional decisions made by senior Finance Ministry officials are influenced by their political views

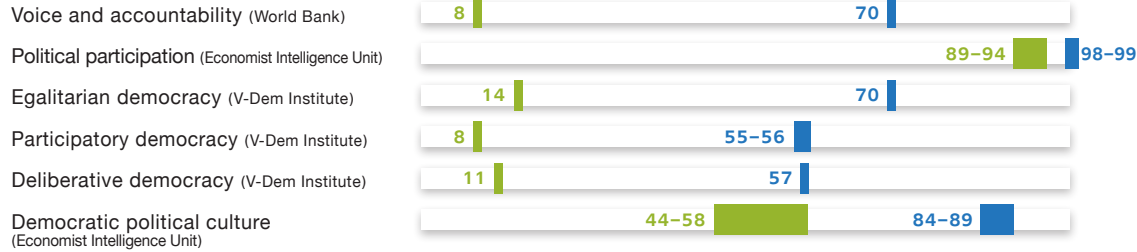
# Israel and the World

## Israel's ranking on international indicators (percentile)

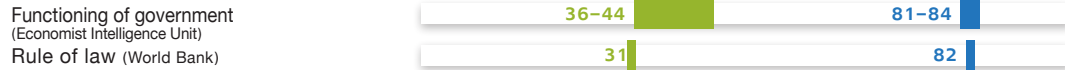
### Democratic rights and freedoms



### Democratic process



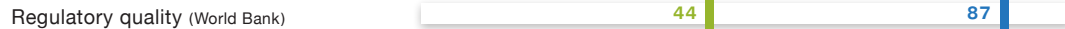
### Governance



### Corruption



### Regulation



### Economic equality

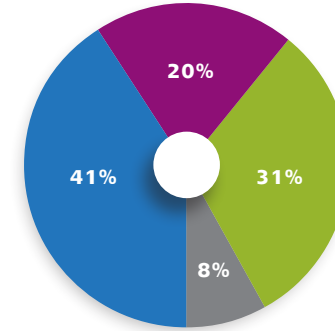


Percentile relative to OECD countries

Percentile relative to all countries included in the survey

# Jewish and/or Democratic

Israel is defined as a Jewish and democratic state. Is there a good balance today between the Jewish and the democratic components? (Jewish respondents)



The Jewish component is too dominant

The democratic component is too dominant

There is a good balance between the two components

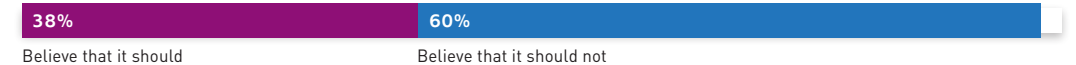
Don't know

# Israelis and the Diaspora

Agree or disagree that Jews in Israel and Jews in the Diaspora share a common fate (Jewish respondents)



When making important decisions, should the government of Israel take the opinions of Diaspora Jewry into account? (Jewish respondents)



**The Israel Democracy Institute** is an independent center of research and action dedicated to strengthening the foundations of Israeli democracy. IDI works to bolster the values and institutions of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state. A non-partisan think-and-do tank, the Institute harnesses rigorous applied research to educate decision makers and help shape policy, legislation and public opinion. The IDI partners with government, policy and decision makers, civil-society organizations, to improve the functioning of the government and its institutions, confront security threats while preserving civil liberties, and foster solidarity within Israeli society.

Israel recognized the positive impact of IDI's research and recommendations by conferring upon the institute its most prestigious award, the Israel Prize for Lifetime Achievement.

**The Israel Democracy Index** is the flagship project of the **Guttman Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research**. It presents decision-makers, researchers and the public at large with an annual survey of public opinion on the State of Israeli democracy. The Index includes trust in government institutions, identification with the state, the Jewish and democratic character of the State, politics and political activism, economic attitudes, as well as an evaluation of Israel's standing in the democratic world as measured by a number of international indices. The Index identifies issues that must be addressed to ensure Israel's future, strengthen its institutions, and bolster the country's democratic character.



To order the full report: [orders@idi.org.il](mailto:orders@idi.org.il)  
972.2.5300800



[www.idi.org.il](http://www.idi.org.il)

Cover design: Lotte design  
Graphic Design: Navi Katzman