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## PRESS RELEASE

### *The Israeli Voice Index – February 2020*

**5 days to the Elections: Jewish Israelis are Paying Less Attention | A Majority of Arab Israelis are Following with the Same or Increased Interest  
30% of the Public Predicts a Fourth Election**

**The Coronavirus Scare: A Majority of Israelis think the Health Ministry is Dealing Properly with the Threat**

**February 27, 2020** – The **Israeli Voice Index for February 2020 published today (Thursday)** found that 30% of the Israeli public thinks that following Monday's elections a government will **not** be formed and the country will instead head to a fourth election. When asked about how the government is handling the coronavirus crisis, the majority of Israelis (60%) responded that the Ministry of Health is dealing with the threat properly.

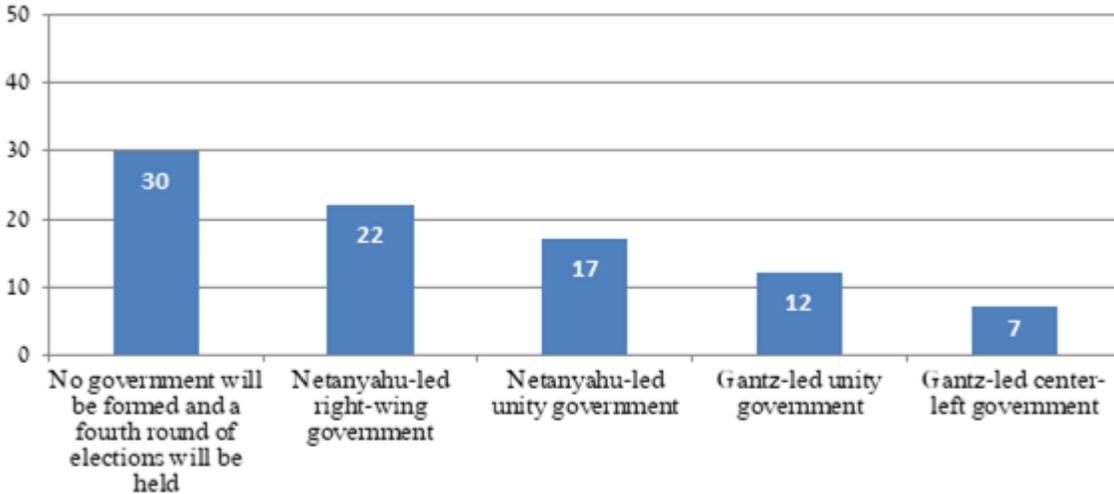
The Israeli Voice Index is a monthly survey conducted by the Guttman Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research at the Israel Democracy Institute.

### **Main Findings**

**What type of government will be formed - what outcome do Israelis prefer and what do they expect will happen?** 44% of Israelis want Netanyahu to head the either a unity or right-wing government while 41% want Gantz to head the either a unity or center-left government.

30% of the Israeli public thinks that following Monday's elections a government will not be formed and there will be a fourth election, 39% think that Netanyahu will be able to form a government and only 19% think that Gantz will be successful in forming a government.

**What government, in your opinion, has a higher chance of being formed after the elections to the Knesset? (% , entire public)**



**Lack of interest in the election campaign** – the Jewish public’s interest in the elections is in a downward trend and 55% say that they are not following the elections as closely as they did in the past election. On the other hand only 33% of Arab Israelis feel this way. A majority of Arab Israelis say that they are following March's election with either the same (32%) or more interest (20%) than in the past.

**What do Israelis think will primarily affect the vote?** In descending order: Netanyahu's legal troubles (26%), the security situation (20.5%), the cost of living and of housing (14%), the issue of religion and state (9%), the diplomatic process (8.5%), and, finally, Jewish-Arab relations in the country (4%). Notable here is the higher-than-usual rate of those who chose the “Don’t know” option (18%).

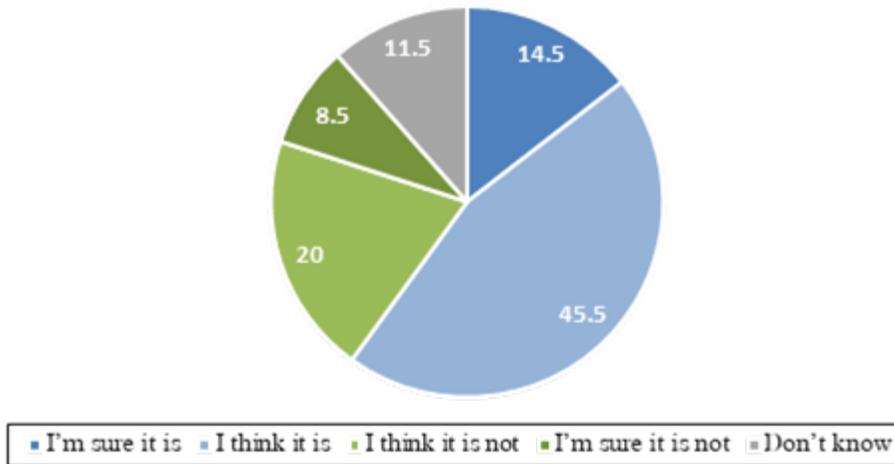
**Forming a government with the Joint List’s support** – 63% of Jewish Israelis oppose the establishment of a government with the outside support of the Joint List. Among Arab Israelis 53.5% support the formation of a government with the outside support of the Joint List.

As expected, the gaps between the political camps on this issue are very large:

	Right	Center	Left
<b>Support</b>	10	38	74
<b>Oppose</b>	79	42.5	14
<b>Don’t know</b>	11	19.5	12

**Coronavirus Crisis** – the majority of Israelis (60%) thinks that the Ministry of Health is dealing properly with the coronavirus threat.

**In your opinion, is the Israeli Health Ministry dealing properly or not dealing properly with the threat of the spread of the coronavirus in Israel? (% ,entire public)**

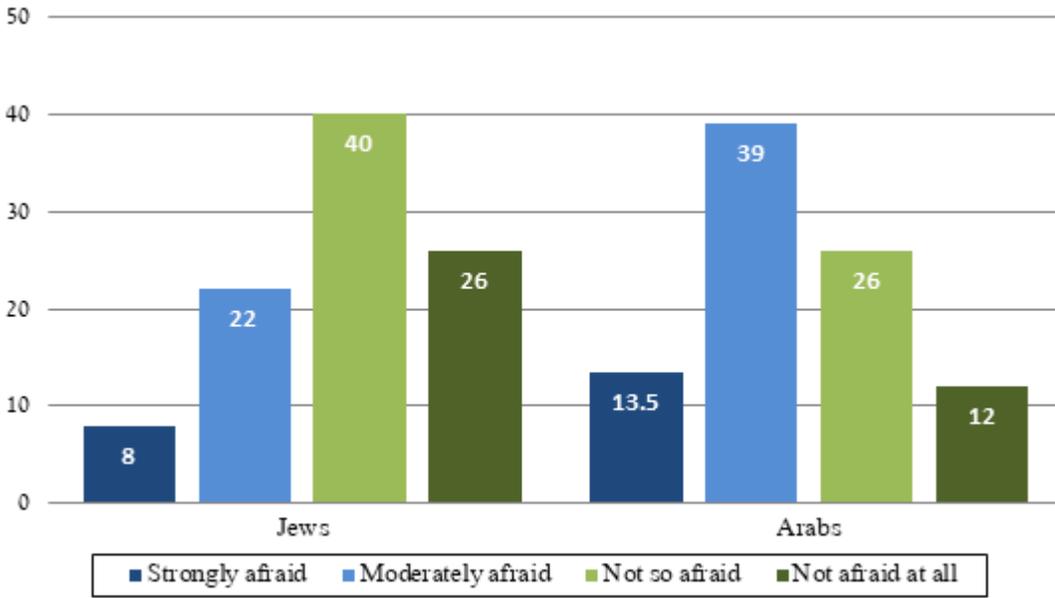


Probably because Health Minister Litzman is a member of the Haredi Torah Judaism party, the rate of those who think the Health Ministry is dealing properly with the coronavirus threat is highest among the Haredi interviewees (%):

	<b>Haredi</b>	<b>Religious</b>	<b>Traditional religious</b>	<b>Traditional nonreligious</b>	<b>Secular</b>
<b>Sure or think that the Health Ministry is dealing properly with the coronavirus threat</b>	89	66	67.5	61	53

Additionally majority of the public (62%) is **not afraid** that they themselves or their family members will catch the virus. Nevertheless the data show that in the Arab public the fear of catching the coronavirus is significantly higher than in the Jewish public (53% vs. 30%).

**Are you now afraid or not afraid that you or someone in your family will catch the coronavirus? (% , Jews and Arabs)**



The survey findings are available on the Israel Democracy Index website.

*The Israeli Voice Index is a project of the Guttman Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research of the Israel Democracy Institute. In the survey, which was conducted on the internet and by telephone (to supplement the participation of groups that are not sufficiently represented on the network). The Jewish Israeli sample, which included 610 respondents between February 19-23, 2020, and the Arab-Israeli sample, which included 134 respondents, between February 24-25, 2020, constituting a representative national sample of Israel's adult population aged 18 and older. The maximum sampling error for the entire sample was 3.7%± at a confidence level of 95%. The fieldwork was done by the Midgam Institute. For the full data file see: <https://dataisrael.idi.org.il>*