

# Summary

## THE ISRAELI DEMOCRACY INDEX

# 2017

**Tamar Hermann**

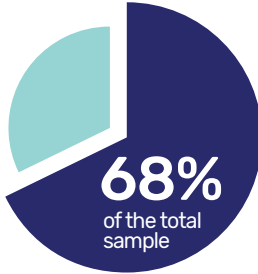
Chanan Cohen / Ella Heller / Tzipy Lazar-Shoef / Fadi Omar



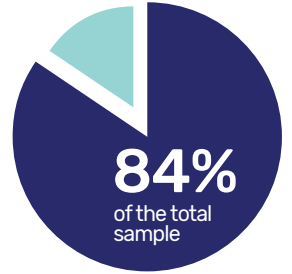
THE ISRAEL  
DEMOCRACY  
INSTITUTE

# Life in Israel Today

The 2017 Israeli Democracy Index (the fifteenth in the series) examines multiple aspects of Israel's democracy, including its structure, effectiveness, and values. The Index offers a multifaceted, up-to-date portrait of Israeli public opinion, identifying ongoing trends as well as new phenomena in the political and social arenas.



optimistic about Israel's future



believe that Israel is a good place to live



74%

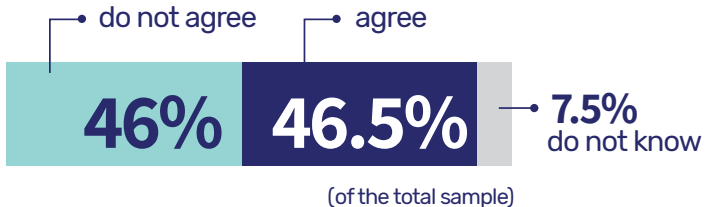
of the total sample believes that it is more difficult for young people to manage in life today than it was for the previous generation



81%

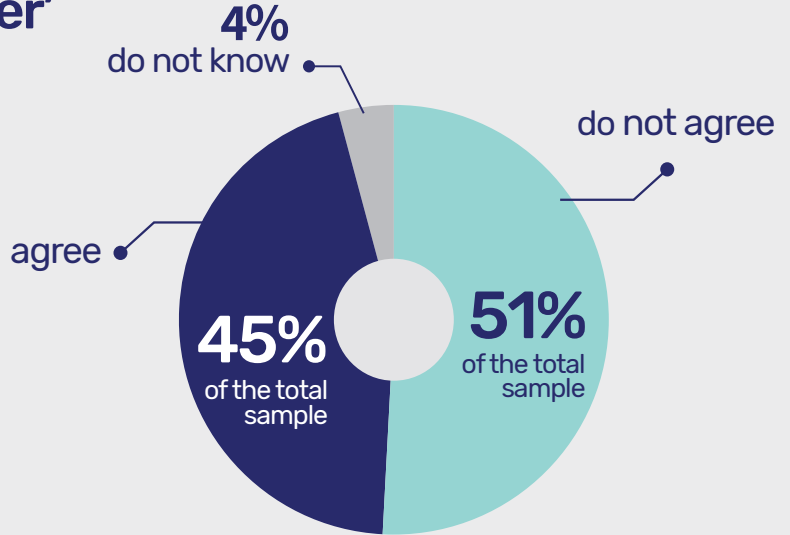
of the total sample would prefer to remain in Israel even if they had the option of receiving American citizenship or the citizenship of any other Western country

## Life in Israel is more difficult than life in most Western countries

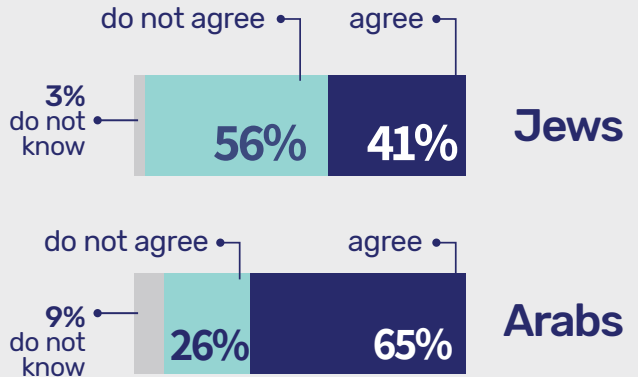
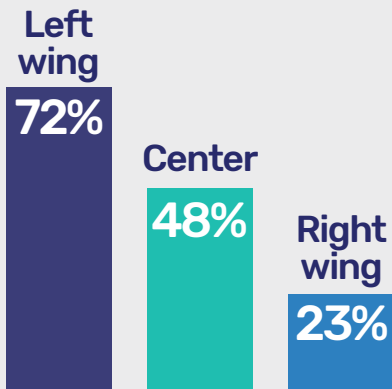


# Political (dis)Function

## 'Israeli democracy is in grave danger'



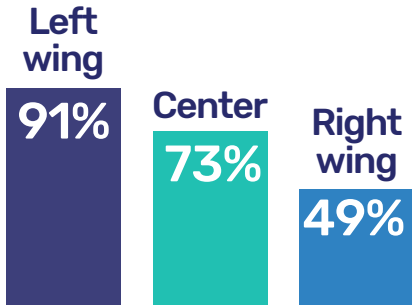
by political affiliation  
(Jewish Respondents)



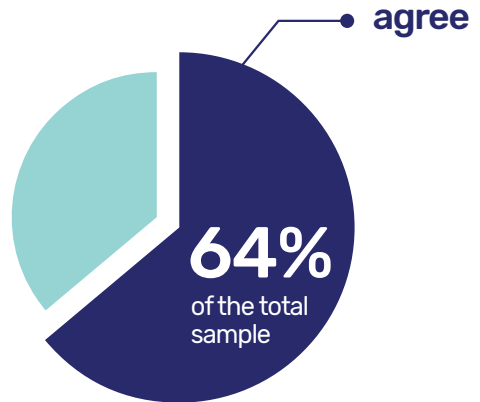
# Political (dis)Function

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'The government does not deal properly with Israel's primary issues'

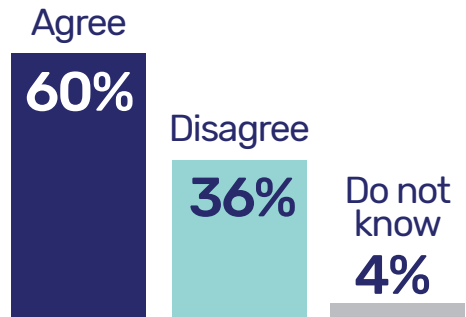


Agree, by political affiliation (Jewish respondents)



Large income disparities among Israeli citizens negatively affect the state's democratic character

(of the total sample)



# Political (dis)Function

(of the total sample)

The power of judicial review over Knesset legislation should be taken away from the Supreme Court

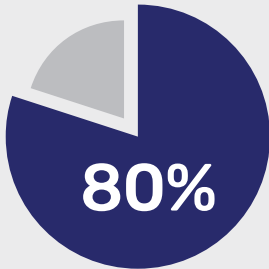
Do not agree

58%

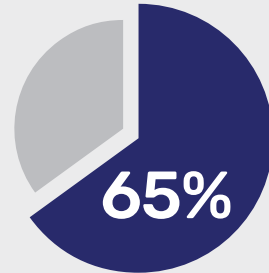
Agree

36%

Do not know  
6%



agree that politicians concern themselves with their own interests rather than the public interest



agree that politicians are disconnected from the problems and needs of the public

41.5%

agree that the rules of democracy work well on paper but do not work well when it comes to managing a country effectively



78%

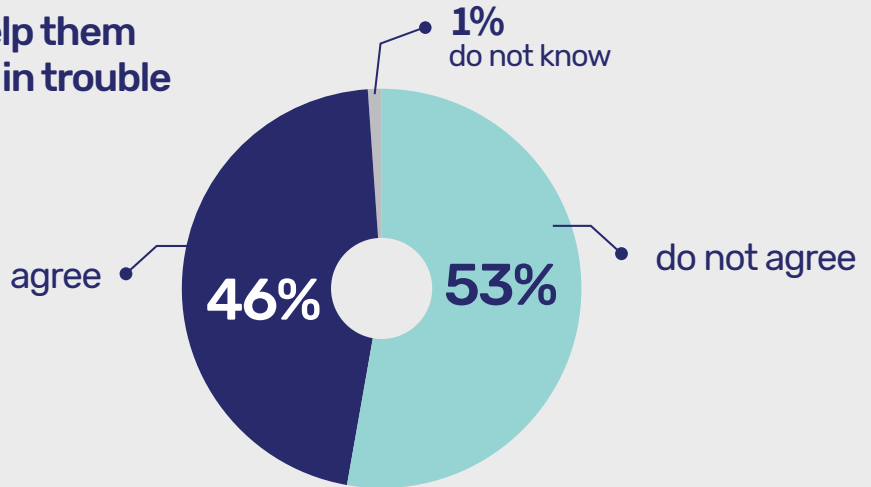
believe that they cannot influence government policy



# Political (dis)Function

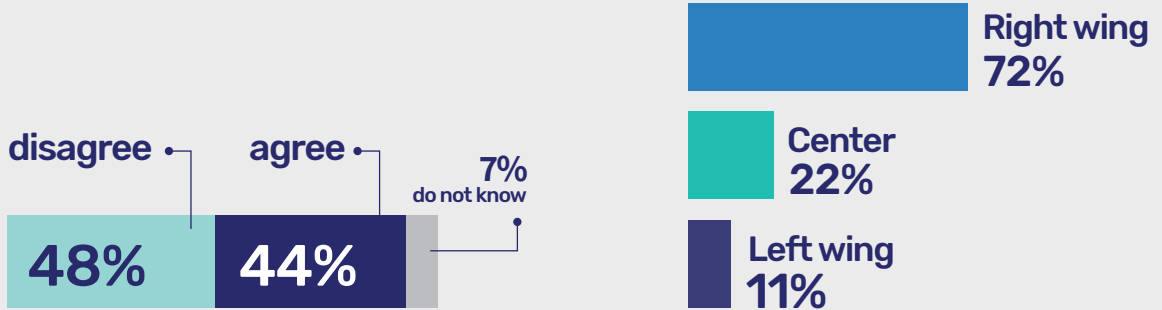
**Israeli citizens can trust the state to help them when they are in trouble**

(of the total sample)



**Even though most of the country voted right wing, the left-wing legal system, media, and academia are not allowing the right wing to govern**

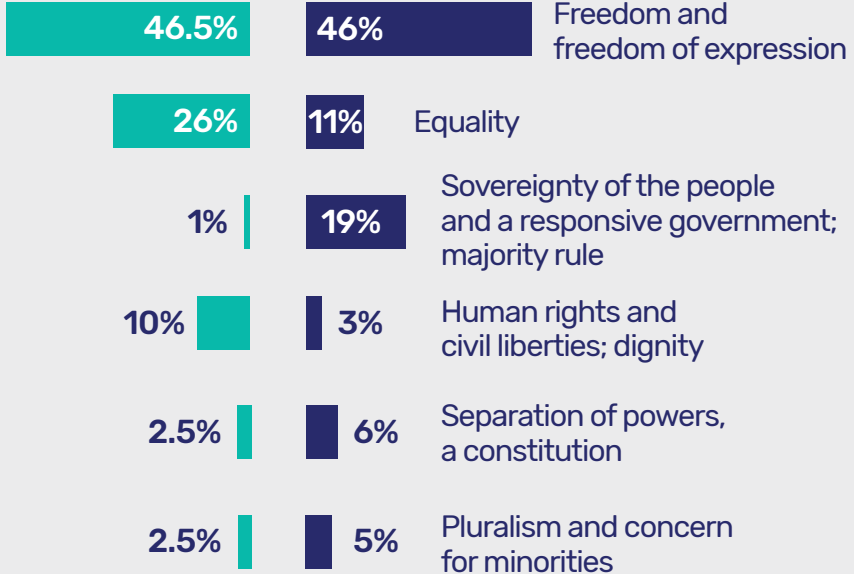
(of the total sample)



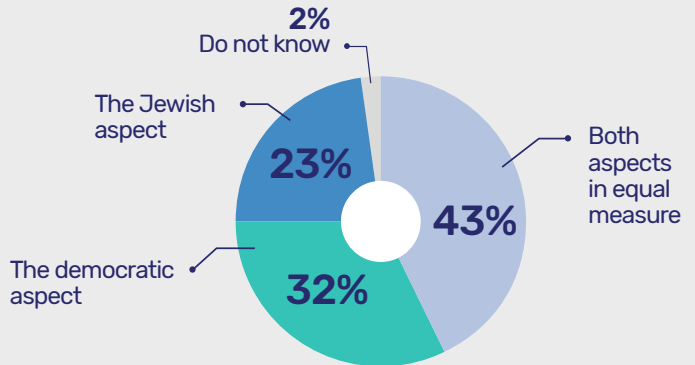
# Jewish and/or Democratic?

## What does a democratic state mean to you?

■ Arab Israelis  
■ Jewish Israelis



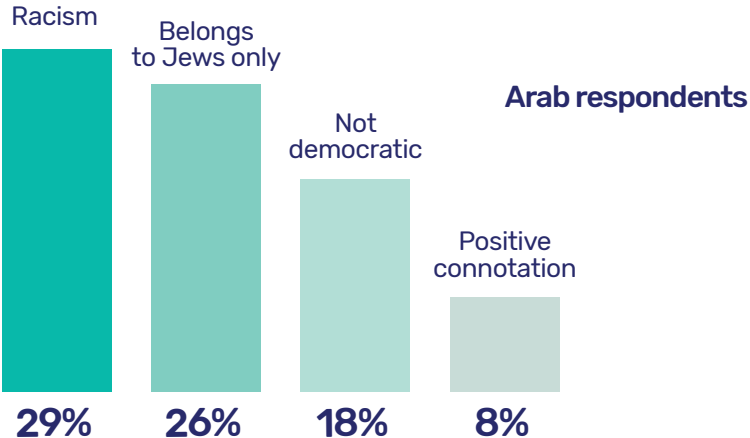
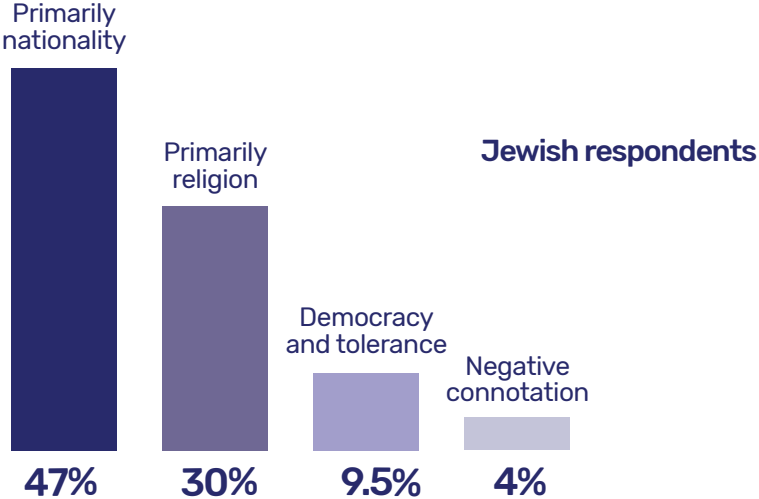
## Which aspect, Jewish or democratic, would you like to be stronger? (Jewish respondents)



# Jewish and/or Democratic?

## What does a Jewish state mean to you?

(open question)

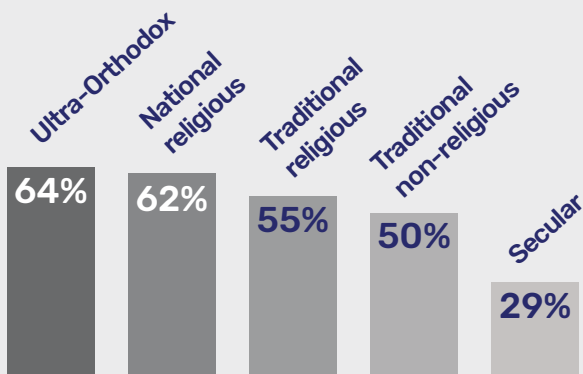
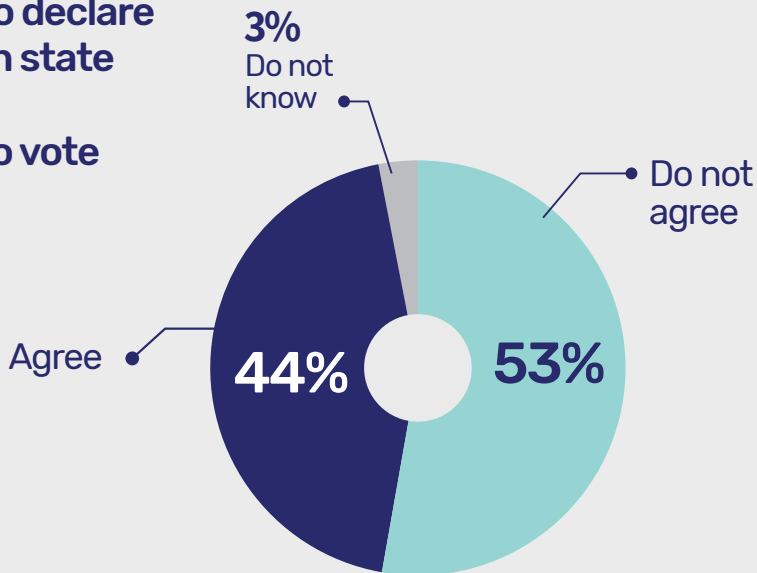




# Jewish and/or Democratic?

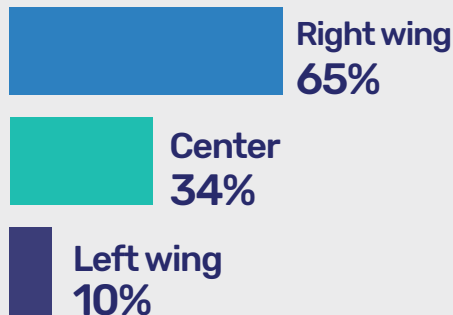
(Jewish respondents)

Anyone who refuses to declare that Israel is the nation state of the Jewish people should lose the right to vote



Agree, by level of religious observance

Agree, by political affiliation

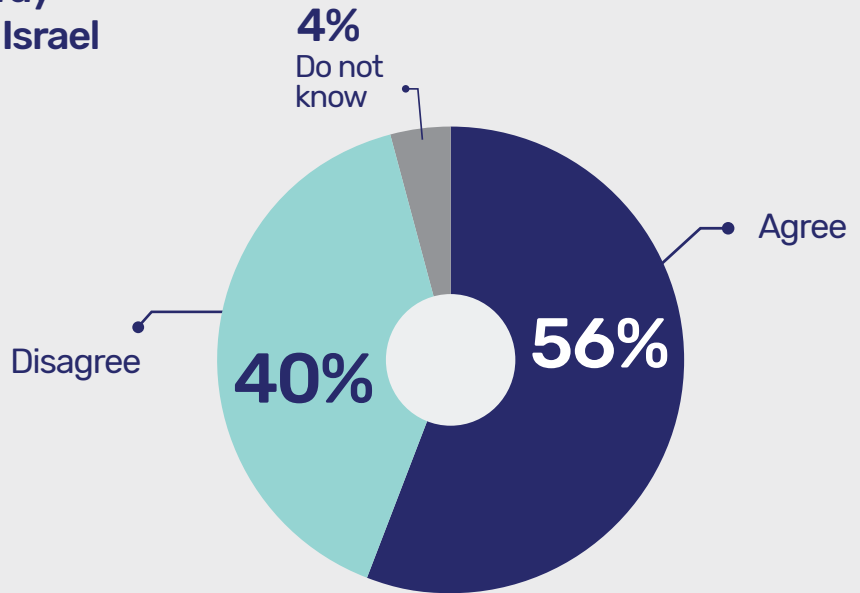


# Fake News?

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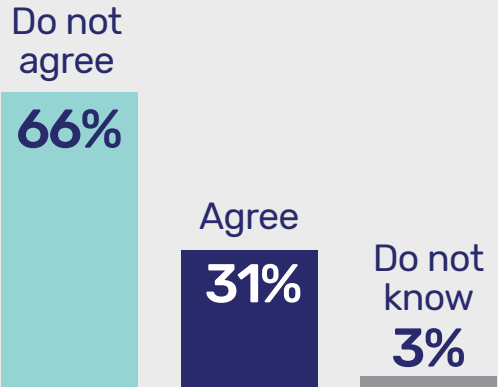
**The media portray  
the situation in Israel  
as much worse  
than it really is**

(the total sample)



**If the government funds  
the public broadcasting authority,  
it should be able to influence  
the content of its broadcast**

(the total sample)



# Fake News?

## What is the primary source of your information on political topics?

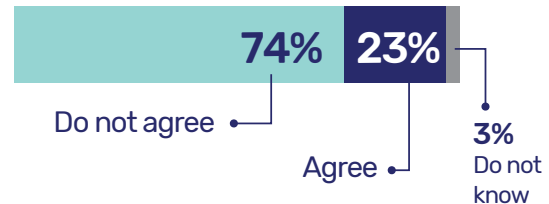
(respondents were allowed to give more than one answer)

	Jews	Arabs
<b>Television</b> (broadcast/Internet)	<b>52%</b>	<b>57.5%</b>
<b>Radio</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>22.5%</b>
<b>Print media</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Social networks</b> (Facebook/Twitter)	<b>24%</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>Online blogs</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>Conversations</b> with friends/family	<b>17%</b>	<b>6%</b>



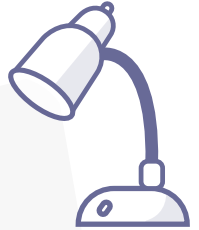
**There should be a law that would allow the closure of a media outlet in the event that it criticizes government policy too severely**

(the total sample)

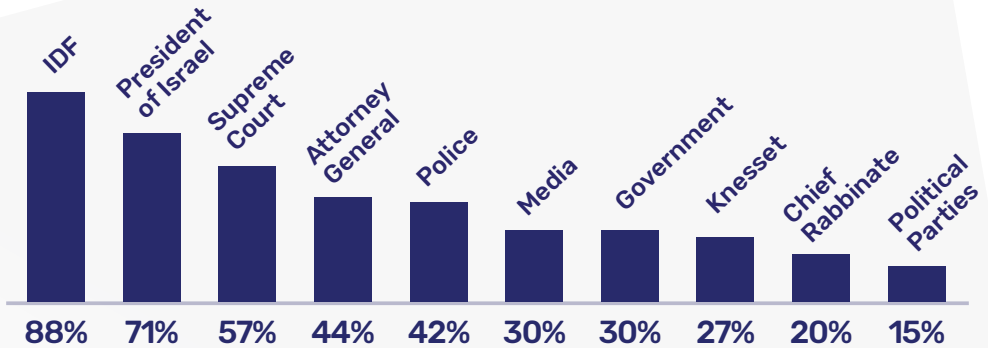


# Trust in the State's Institutions

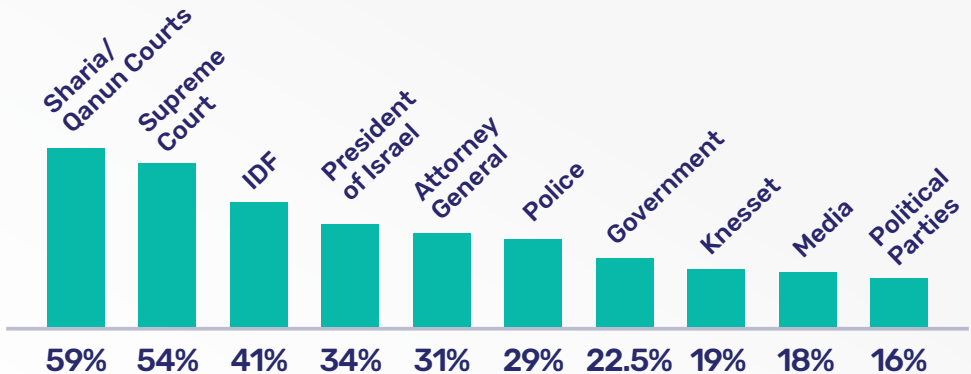
Which State institutions do Israelis trust?



## Jews



## Arabs



# Human and Civil Rights

Human and civil rights organizations such as the Association for Civil Rights in Israel and B'tselem damage the State of Israel



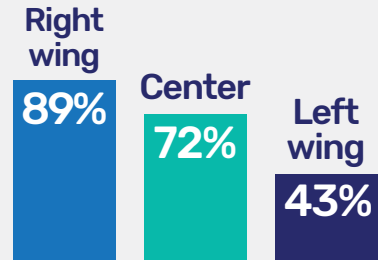
**12%**  
of Arab respondents agree



**59%**  
of Jewish respondents agree

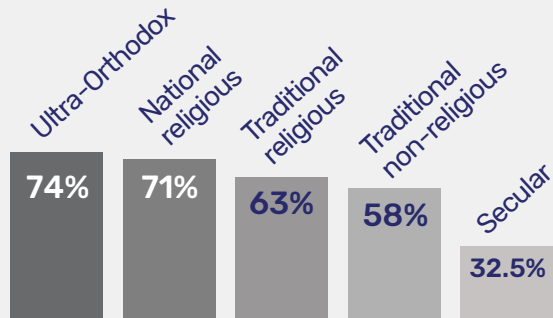
There are people in Israel who use the right of freedom of expression to harm the State

Agree, by political affiliation (Jewish respondents)



Illegal refugees and immigrants are eroding the character of Israeli society

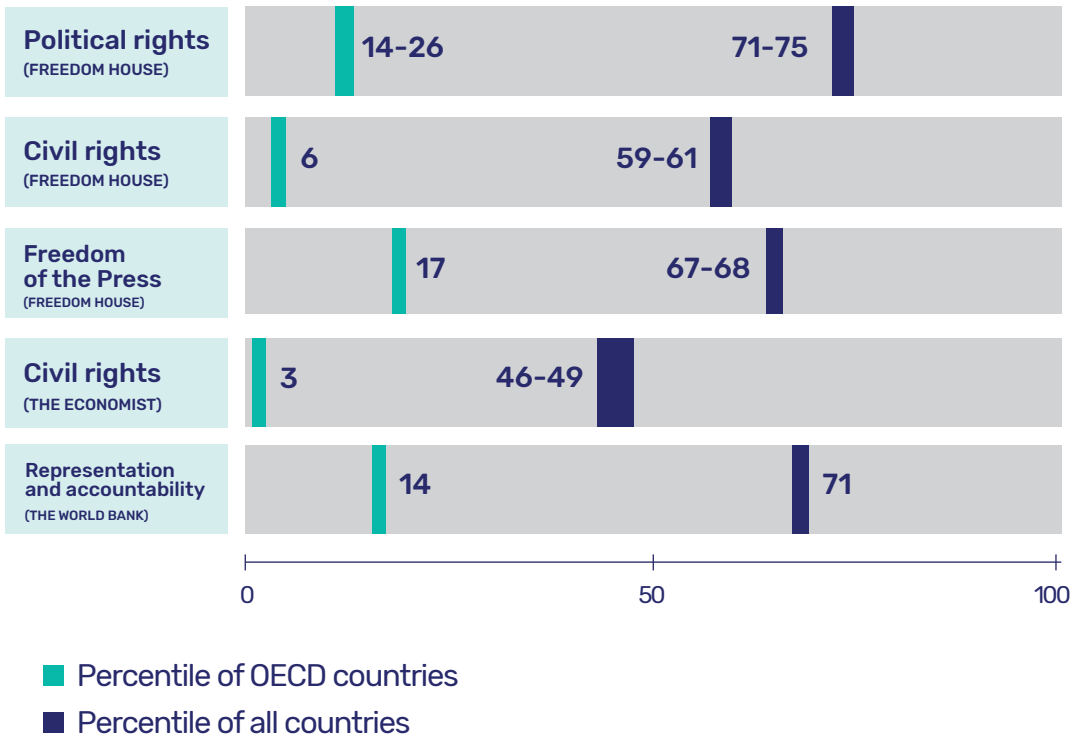
Agree, by level of religious observance (Jewish respondents)



# Israel and the World

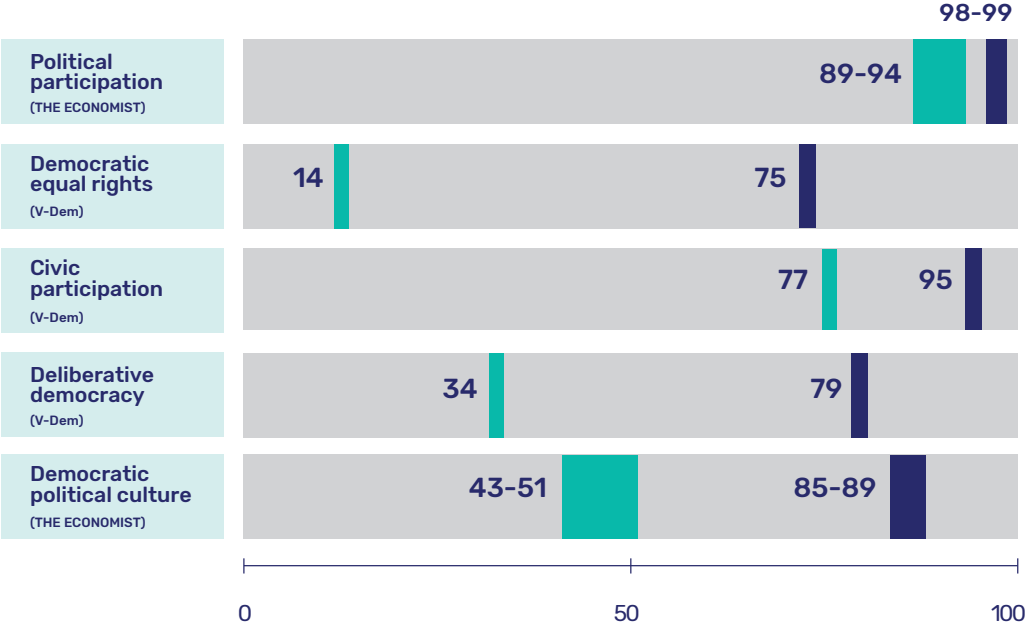
In an examination of international indices for quality of governance and the functioning of the political system, Israel's rankings as a democracy are not bad compared with all the countries in the sample, but are at the bottom as compared with OECD countries.

## Rights and Liberties

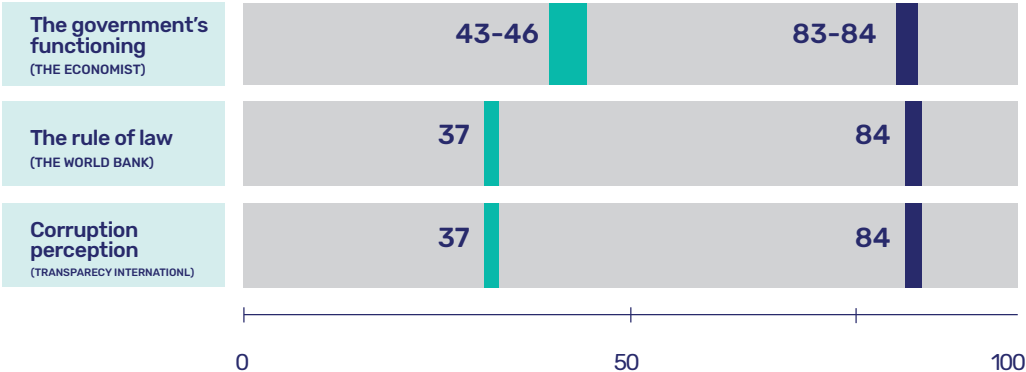


# Israel and the World

## The Democratic Process



## Governance



**The Israel Democracy Institute (IDI)** 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 influence policy, legislation and public opinion. The institute partners with government, policy and decision makers, civil service and society, 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 Guttman Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research** holds the largest, most comprehensive database on public opinion surveys in Israel. Over a span of 60 years and through more than 1,200 surveys, the center has applied rigorous, innovative and pioneering research methods to document the attitudes of the Israeli public regarding thousands of issues in all aspects of life: politics, culture, ideology, religion, education and national security. The center surveys attitudes and measures social indicators, helping policymakers understand trends in Israeli society and craft sound policies that are grounded in data.

**The Israeli Democracy Index**, a project of the Israel Democracy Institute's Guttman Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research, offers an annual assessment of the quality of Israeli democracy. For each of the last fourteen years, a comprehensive survey of a representative sample of the Israeli population has been carried out for this purpose. This year's survey was conducted in May and was comprised of 1,531 respondents. The mission of the Israeli Democracy Index is to document trends in Israeli society as they relate to crucial issues associated with the perpetuation of democratic values.

In furtherance of this goal, the Index gauges the functioning of government institutions and representatives. Analysis of the survey's results is meant to enrich the discussion of relevant public policy issues in Israel as well as create a comprehensive database that can serve to deepen the public discourse on the state of Israel's democracy.



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