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PRESS RELEASE

The Israeli Voice Index – September 2019

As PM Netanyahu Heads to a Hearing with the AG – Half of Israelis Don't Think a Plea Bargain Should be Offered | A Majority Prefer Unity Government

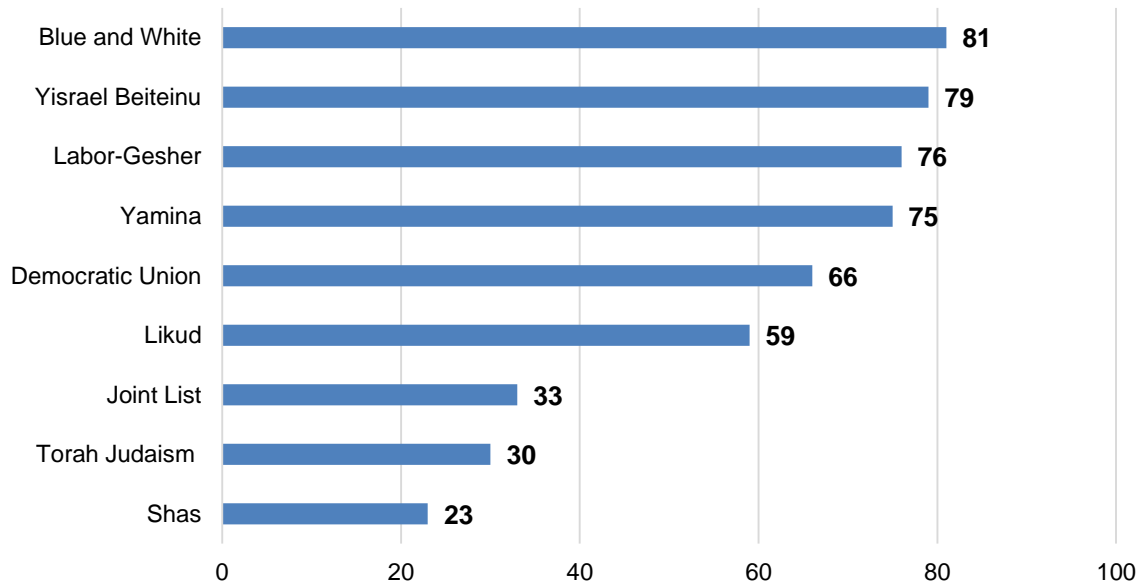
October 2, 2019 – With the Attorney General set to hold a pre-indictment hearing for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu this week, the September 2019 **Israeli Voice Index** - a monthly survey conducted by the Guttman Center at the Israel Democracy Institute – found that 52% of Israelis do not think that Netanyahu should be offered a plea bargain in which he would admit to charges against him and retire from public life without standing trial. 58% of Israelis do not think that Netanyahu would agree to such a deal if it were offered. Additionally, when asked about their preferred coalition in the wake of September's election, a majority of the Israeli public expressed their preference for a unity government as opposed to a third round of elections. [Full Column](#)

Main Findings

Plea Bargain – 52% of Israelis do not think the State should offer Benjamin Netanyahu a plea bargain which would include an admission to the charges against him and retirement from public life without having to stand trial. 50% of the left, 40% of the center and 23% of the right, oppose such an agreement. A larger majority (58%) do not believe that Netanyahu would agree such an arrangement even if it were offered to him.

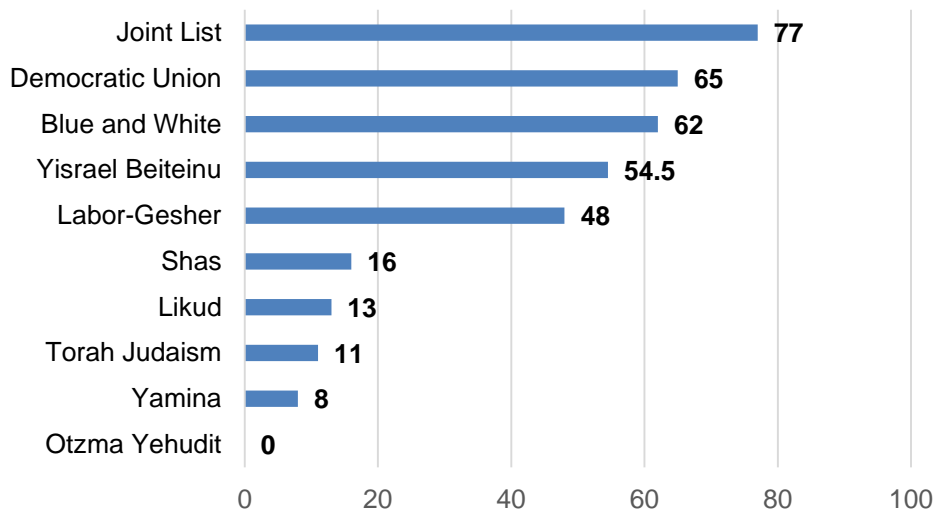
Unity government or new elections - The majority of Israelis prefer a unity government as opposed to a third round of elections. 64% of Jewish Israelis prefer a unity government compared to only 15% who prefer new elections. 33% of Arab Israelis prefer a unity government, 17% new elections, and 50% have no clear preference.

Preference for a unity government by voting in the September 2019 elections (% ,entire public)



Satisfaction with the election results - The rate of Arabs who are satisfied with the results is higher than the rate of Jews who are pleased with them (56.5% vs. 31%). Among the Jews the gaps between the different political camps are very large and the voters for the parties of the center and the left are much more satisfied with the election results than the voters for the right-wing parties.

Satisfaction with the election results by Knesset voting in the September 2019 elections (% ,entire public)



Including Arab parties in the government – 74% of Jewish Israelis oppose including Arab parties in the government or appointing an Arab minister – up significantly from January 2019 when opposition stood at 49%. Among Arab Israelis support for inclusion in the government has declined to 66% – down from 76% in January 2019.

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 (supplements of groups that are not sufficiently represented on the network) from September 22 to September 24, 606 men and women were interviewed in Hebrew and 151 in Arabic, constituting a representative national sample of the entire adult population of Israel aged 18 and older. The maximum sampling error for the entire sample was $\pm 3.7\%$ at a confidence level of 95%. The fieldwork was done by the Rafi Smith Institute under the direction of Rafi Smith. For the full data file see: <https://dataisrael.idi.org.il>