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PRESS RELEASE

The Israeli Voice Index – January 2020

In the political arena: More Israelis support rather than oppose Israeli recognition of a Palestinian state; A majority among the left-wing and center camps and only a third of the right-wing camp believe that the timing of the announcement Trump’s “Deal of the Century” constitutes U.S. intervention in the elections

With elections a month away: Israelis believe Netanyahu's investigations are the main issue which will impact the voting; the majority support declaring Election Day as a sabbatical only for those who prove they voted.

February 3, 2020 – The **Israeli Voice Index for January 2020 published today (Monday)** - a monthly survey conducted by the Guttman Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research at the Israel Democracy Institute – reveals that one-third of Likud voters believe that Israel can recognize a Palestinian state;. In addition, Netanyahu's investigations are emerging as the issue which will have the greatest impact on the voters in the upcoming elections.

Main Findings

Deal of the Century – Was the timing essential, or is this an attempt to influence election results?

Half the Israeli public believes that by announcing the plan at the present time, the U.S. is meddling in the Israeli elections so as to help Prime Minister Netanyahu win. Nevertheless there isn't a consensus: among Jews, a third (33.5 %) of members of the right-wing camp believes so, as compared with 78% among the left-wing, and 69% among centrists.

Who can do a better job at conducting political negotiations - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, or Blue and White Chairman Benny Gantz? 52% of the Jewish public believes that if negotiations with the

Palestinians begin Netanyahu will manage them better, while 20% believe that Gantz will be more successful. Among Arab Israelis, 39% believe that both will manage the negotiations with equal success.

What does the public think of Israel recognizing a Palestinian state: 45% of the Israeli public believes that Israel can recognize a Palestinian state, as compared with 38% who believe it shouldn't.

Segmentation by vote for the September election reveals that a majority of the voters for the Democratic Camp (79%), Labor-Gesher-Meretz (67%), Blue-White (65%) and Yisrael Beitenu (51%) support this recognition. Support is lower among voters of the Joint List (44%), United Torah Judaism and Likud (33% of each), the New Right (23.5%) and Shas (23%).

What will be the deciding factor in the elections - 32% of Israelis believe Netanyahu's investigations will be the issue with the greatest impact on voters in the upcoming Knesset elections. Only 21% think the main issue will be the cost of living and housing, followed by security (18%), religion and state (10%) and Jewish-Arab relations (7%).

Clearly, the decision to indict Netanyahu and the public discourse surrounding Netanyahu's investigations have left their mark. A month and a half before the April 2019 elections, the security situation was the top issue that Israelis perceived as having the greatest effect on the vote (30%). Next in line were: the cost of living and housing (22%), and the investigations of Netanyahu (19%).

Election Day Sabbatical - A majority of the Israeli public (69%) believe that Election Day should be designated as a sabbatical only for those who prove that they fulfilled their civic duty and have voted. As far as penalizing non-voting, which is the practice in some countries, the majority of the Israeli public (55%) opposes imposing fines on those who did not vote in the elections.

The full survey findings are available on the [Israel Democracy Institute](https://www.idi.org.il) 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) from January 26 to January 28, 2020, 638 men and women were interviewed in Hebrew and 124 in Arabic, constituting a representative national sample of Israel's adult population 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 Midgam Institute. For the full data file see: <https://dataisrael.idi.org.il>