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PRESS RELEASE

The Israeli Voice Index – April 2021

70% of Israelis: Coalition Negotiations Will Fail and Fifth Elections Will be Held

Only 33% Think One-Off Direct Elections for PM Will Resolve Crisis

May 5, 2021 – The Israeli Voice Index for April 2021 published today (Wednesday) by the Viterbi Family Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research at the Israel Democracy Institute, found that 70% of Israelis think that –despite the ongoing coalition negotiations Israel is headed for a fifth election in the coming months. Only 33% of the public thinks that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's proposal for direct elections will resolve the current stalemate.

The Israeli Voice Index is a monthly survey conducted by the Viterbi Family Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research.

Main Findings

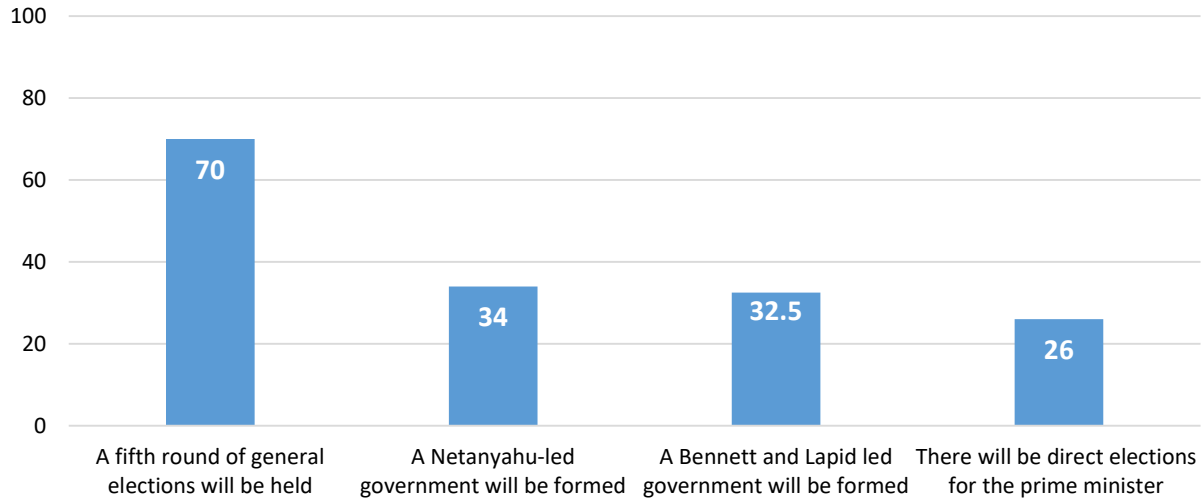
Will direct elections solve the political impasse? – Israelis do not think that the Shas party proposal supported by Prime Minister Netanyahu for one-off direct elections of the premiere are a solution for the ongoing political crisis. 49% of the public does not think that such an election would end the stalemate, 33% think it would and 18% said that they do not know.

The public is unsure as to whether or not direct elections in general for the prime minister would improve governance – 26% think it would improve, 30% think it would make matters worse, 21% think it would not make a difference and 23% said they do not know. Only 26% think that there are high or moderately high chances that direct elections for the prime minister will be held.

The head of the biggest party will be prime minister - In terms of long-term electoral reform 38% of Israelis support the proposal that as of the next elections, the leader of the largest party will automatically become the prime minister. 46% oppose such a reform and 16% are undecided on the matter.

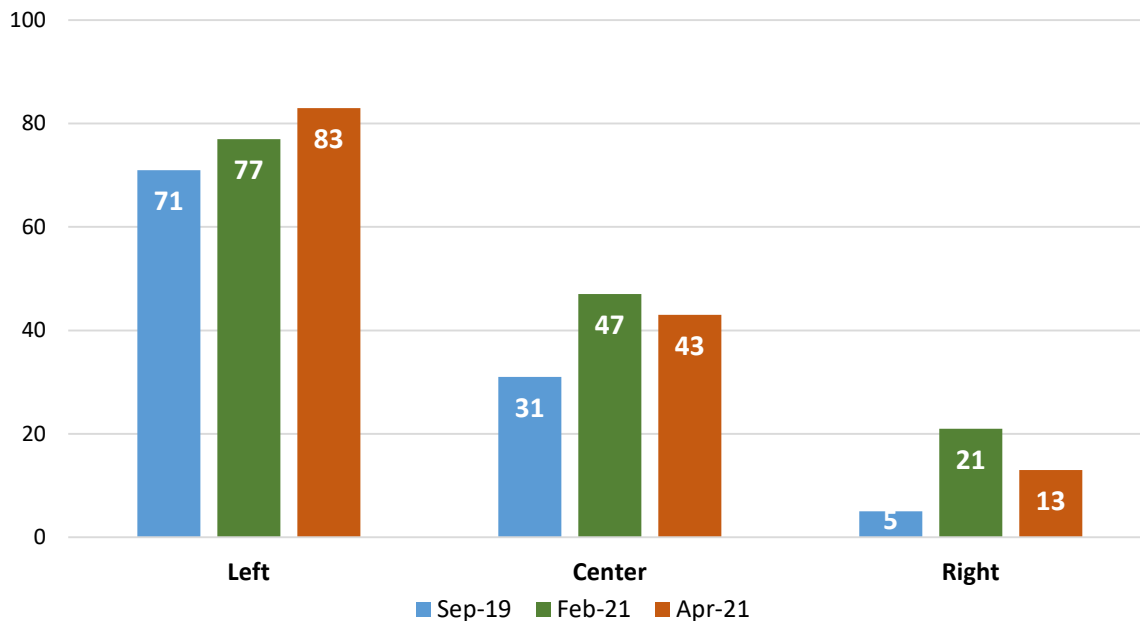
What will happen – 70% of Israelis think that it is likely or highly likely that Israel is headed to a fifth election. 34% think that Netanyahu will be the next prime minister and 32.5% think that Yair Lapid and Naftali Bennett will head the next government.

High chances that at the end of the coalition talks, each of the following scenarios will materialize (% ,entire sample)



Arab parties as part of the government – there are fluctuations in the support for including the Arab parties in the government among the center and right, with a steady rise in support on the left.

Support for including Arab parties in the government, with the appointment of Arab ministers (% , Jews)

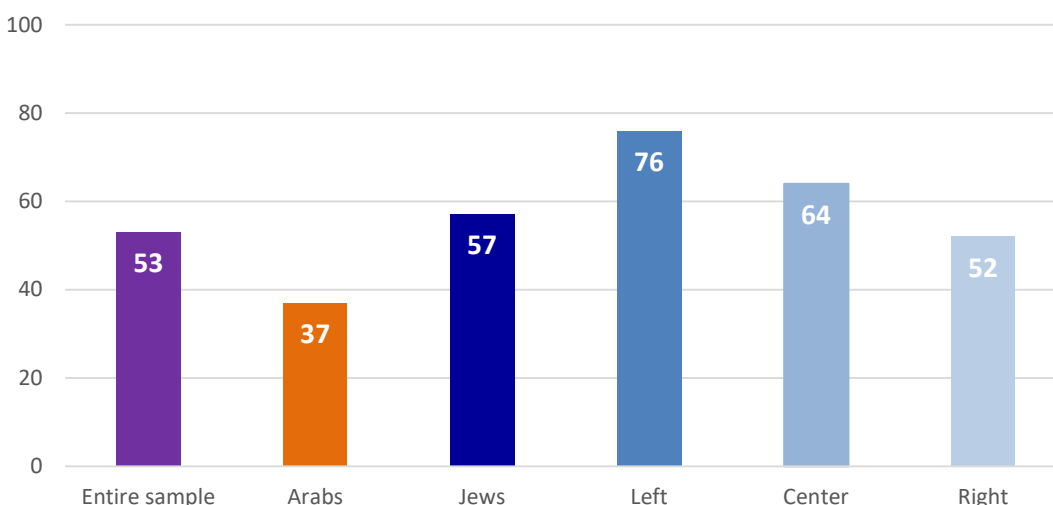


Fifth round of elections or a coalition supported by Raám – the public is divided on the question of which is preferable. 33% prefer a government with the support of the Raám party, 23% prefer fifth elections, 31% do not want either of these possibilities and 13% don't know.

Unpaid leave benefits for workers put in place during COVID-19 will end next month, in June 2021. Fearful that these benefits lower motivation to return to the labor market – only 17% support continuing the unpaid leave benefits, 34% support extending the benefits with modifications and 40% oppose extending the benefits at all.

Recognizing the Armenian Genocide – 53% of the public think that Israel should follow America's lead and recognize the Armenian genocide, even if it aggravates relations with Turkey, 18% opposed this and 29% were undecided.

Should Israel, too, recognize the genocide of the Armenians, even if it intensifies Turkey's hostility? (% , entire sample, Arabs, Jews, and Jews by political camp)



The Israeli Voice Index for April 2021 was prepared by the Viterbi 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 April 26 to April 28, 2021, 612 men and women were interviewed in Hebrew and 150 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 3.59%± at a confidence level of 95%. The fieldwork was done by the Smith Institute. For the full data file see: <https://dataisrael.idi.org.il>