



For more information or interviews:  
Danae Marx, Director of International Communications  
+972-52-4334557 | [danaem@idi.org.il](mailto:danaem@idi.org.il)

## *The Israeli Voice Index – January 2023*

### **Judicial Overhaul Proposal: 31% Israelis Describe it as “Good” | 43% as “Bad”**

### **64% Are in Favor of Dialogue to Reach a Compromise**

**February 3, 2023** – The January 2023 edition of the Israeli Voice Index, a monthly survey conducted by the Viterbi Family Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research, finds that regarding the proposed plan to overhaul the judicial system, 43% describe the initiative as “bad” – while 31% describe it as “good.” A quarter of respondents said that they do not have an opinion on the Levin plan. A large majority (64%) are in favor of dialogue between the different political camps regarding the proposed legislative changes in an attempt to reach compromise.

#### **Main findings:**

#### **Proposed Judicial Overhaul**

43% of Israelis think that the proposed Levin plan is “quite” or “very bad.” 31% describe it as “good” or “very good.” One quarter of respondents said they don’t have an opinion about the plan. Among Arab Israelis, the percentage who responded that they “don’t know” was much higher. This could indicate the lack of engagement among the Arab public with the current public debate over this issue.

Segmentation by vote at the last elections found that 63% of those who voted for the coalition parties have a positive opinion of the Levin plan – while 80% of those who voted for opposition parties hold a negative view.

The survey also revealed a strong association between opinions about the proposed judicial initiative and the level of optimism about the future of democratic rule in Israel. 81% of those who think the plan is good are also optimistic about the future of Israeli democracy – while among those who think it is bad – 87% are pessimistic.

**Public Protests** – 13% of Israelis said they have participated in at least one protest activity. By political orientation – 46% of the Left, 18% of the Center and 6% of the Right say that

have participated in at least one protest activity. Segmentation by level of religiosity found that participation rates are zero among Haredim, 4% for national religious, 7% for traditional religious, 10% for traditional non-religious, and 27% of secular respondents.

**Expected effect** – Most Israelis (55%) think that broad protests can have some effect on the proposed effect – among these 29.5% think it can moderate the Levin plan, 17% think it can delay it and only 8% think that the protests could cancel the initiative. 23.5% think the protests won't have any effect and 22% don't know.

**Forms of Protest** – Israelis think that the following forms of protest are allowed: 82% - demonstrations, 51% - striking and ceasing engagement in commerce, 35% - blocking entrances to public and government buildings, 35% - blocking roads for a few hours, 22% - not paying taxes and 18% - not reporting for IDF reserves duty.

Segmentation of Jewish Israelis by political orientation reveals a highly divided public. For each of the protest activities, a higher proportion of those on the Left legitimize it than on the Right.

**Dialogue and Compromise** – 64% agree that there should be dialogue regarding proposed legislative changes, in order to reach some form of compromise. Segmentation by political orientation revealed a majority in support for this suggestion among voters for opposition as well as coalition parties (77.5% and 60% respectively).

### **Tensions in Israeli Society**

**Right and Left** – 42.5% of Israelis think that the strongest tension today in Israeli society is between Right and Left –the highest since measurement began in 2012. This increased from 34% in October 2022 and a multi-year average of 27.7% over the last decade.

**Likelihood of violent civil war** – 55% think there is a low likelihood of civil war in Israel between the political camps and 57% hold the same view with regard to clashes with the Israeli security forces. A substantial minority – 31%, think that the former is likely and 28% think the latter.

The survey revealed that Jewish women are more concerned about the prospect of civil war (39%) and clashes with the security forces (24%) than Jewish men (23.5% And 33% respectively).

*The Israeli Voice Index for January 2023 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 January 23 to 26 2023, 600 men and women were interviewed in Hebrew and 118 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  $.359\pm\%$  at a confidence level of 95%. The fieldwork was done by the dialogue Institute. For the full data file see: <https://dataisrael.idi.org.il>*