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April 2023

Only 16% of Israelis Think Judicial Overhaul Compromise Likely

The April 2023 edition of the Israeli Voice Index, a monthly survey conducted by the Viterbi Family Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research, revealed that only 16% of Israelis think that an agreed upon compromise proposal is likely to result from the talks in the President's Residence. A large majority of the total sample, both coalition voters and opposition voters, rate the chances of an agreement being reached as low; When asked about the rising level of violent crime, an increasing rate of Israelis are concerned that they or a family member will be a victim of a violent crime in an area where they live. There is a large disparity between Arab and Jewish Israelis on this question with over 64% of Arab Israelis saying they are worried as opposed to 28% of Jewish Israelis who are worried.

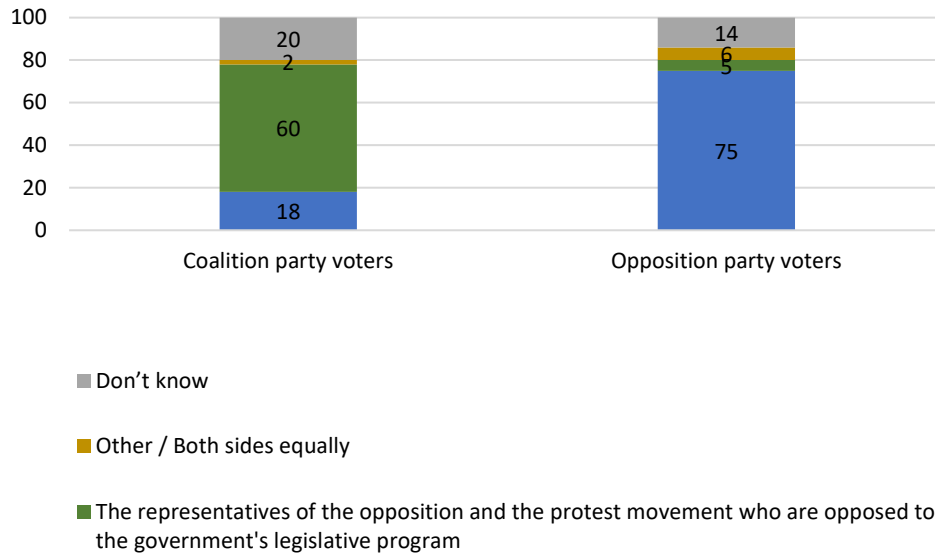
Main findings:

Negotiations at the President's Residence

Likelihood of reaching a compromise: There is almost wall-to-wall consensus (70%) that the likelihood of a compromise resulting from the negotiations in the President's Residence is very low and only 16% think that it is likely. No real differences were found on this issue on the basis of vote at the last elections, political orientation, age, religiosity, or nationality.

Why haven't substantial agreements been reached? There is a predictably large difference of opinion on this issue between coalition and opposition voters: 60% of coalition voters blame the representatives of the opposition and the protest movement, while an even greater majority of voters for opposition parties (75%) blame the representatives of the government.

Which of the two sides is responsible for the fact that until now, no substantial agreements have been reached in the talks held at the President's Residence? (total sample, by vote at the last elections; %)



Will the public protests cease if a compromise is reached regarding the reforms? 53% of Israelis think that the protests will continue even if a compromise is agreed, while 33% believe that they will indeed come to an end.

Once again, we found a disparity between voters for coalition parties and voters for opposition parties: 67% of the former think that the protests will continue even if a compromise is reached, and thus believe that the protests are not really about the government's program of legislative changes to the judicial system. On the other hand, half of opposition party voters are of the opinion that the protests will end when a compromise is agreed – 39% take the opposite view.

The Jewish Power Party's Proposal for a Government Resolution on "Zionist Values"

Recently, the Jewish Power faction (headed by Ben Gvir which ran together in the last election in November 2022 as part of Religious Zionist party) has proposed a government resolution designed to begin practically implementing the 2018 Nation-State Law, stating that the values of Zionism will be the guiding and decisive values in legislation and government activity. 44% of Jewish Israelis support such a resolution, 39% oppose it and 17% don't know. Among Arab Israelis, 7% support this, 67% oppose it, and 26% don't know.

A breakdown of responses by vote at the last Knesset elections reveals that only in the case of three of the factions currently represented in the Knesset is there a majority of voters who are in favor of the proposed resolution—Religious Zionism, Shas, and Likud. Presumably because of the reference to Zionism, less than half of the voters for United Torah Judaism support the proposal.

Violence in Israel

Fears of becoming a victim of violent crime: Against the backdrop of the rising tide of violence in the Arab sector in recent months, 64% of Arab Israelis are “extremely” or “quite strongly” worried that they or a family member will be a victim of a violent crime (up from 47% in 2017). An additional 17% of Arab Israelis say they are “slightly worried.” Among Jewish Israelis only 28% say they are “extremely” or “quite strongly” worried (up from 22% in 2017). 46.5% of Jewish Israelis say they are “slightly worried” about being a victim of a violent crime.

Do the police deal equally with violent crime in the Jewish and Arab publics? 55% of Jewish Israelis and 71% of Arab Israelis think that the police deals with crime in Jewish areas more thoroughly than it does with crime in Arab localities.

A breakdown of Jewish respondents to this question by political orientation reveals that while a large majority of those on the Left (73%) agree that the police deal more thoroughly with crime in Jewish localities than crime in Arab areas, only a small minority of the those in the Center (56%) and around half of those on the Right (52%) take the same view.

The Israeli Voice Index for April 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) during May 1-5 2023, 603 men and women were interviewed in Hebrew and 147 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 3.69±% 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>