**Press Release**

**March 2025 Israeli Voice Index**

**Large and Increasing Majority of Israelis Prioritize Bringing Hostages Home Over Toppling Hamas**

*Asked whether it's possible to achieve both of these war goals simultaneously, Israelis are divided*

The March 2025 Israeli Voice Index, conducted by the Viterbi Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research, repeated a question asked in January 2024 and September 2024: of Israel's two stated war goals (toppling Hamas and bringing all the hostages home), which is more important? We've found a steady increase in prioritization of the hostages over time, with 68% of the total sample saying bringing hostages home is higher priority and 25% prioritizing toppling Hamas in the current survey. In September 2024, these numbers were 62% hostages / 29% Hamas, and in January 2024, 51% hostages / 36% Hamas. This is the majority view across all political orientations (Jews), though the majority on the Right (52%) is much smaller than in the Center (80.5%) and on the Left (91%).

As to whether it's possible to achieve both of these two war goals simultaneous, 49% think or are certain this is not possible, while 46% think or are certain it is.

**Additional Survey Highlights:**

**Majority of Israelis (56.5%) say the government should obey Supreme Court decision on Ronen Bar**

Among Jewish Israelis, a smaller majority (54%) think that the government must obey the ruling of the Supreme Court, while 36% think that it does not have to obey, and the rest say they don’t know. Among Arab Israelis, a much larger majority (71%) think that the government must abide by the Court’s ruling on this matter, while just 8% take the opposite view. In the total sample, 56.5% think that the government has to obey the ruling.

**Most Israelis oppose changes to the Judicial Selection Committee Law**

Recently, the Knesset passed an amendment to the Judicial Selection Committee Law, giving a majority to the political representatives on the Committee at the expense of judges and representatives of the Israel Bar Association. Presented with two options, in the total sample, 53% say they oppose this change, on the grounds that it could lead to the politicization of the judiciary and over-concentration of power in the hands of the government, while 33% support the amendment, because it strengthens governance and allows the government to operate more efficiently. Opposition is higher among Arab Israelis (61%) than among Jewish Israelis (50.5%).

**Do you support or oppose the amendment to the Judicial Selection Committee Law? (%)**

**Majority of Israelis think the recently-approved state budget serves narrow interests of certain groups**

Only a minority of Israelis say the state budget is based on objective, professional economic considerations (22.5%), while a majority say it is designed to serve the narrow interests of certain groups (65%). Responses to this question vary greatly by level of religiosity among Jewish Israelis, as shown in the graph below.

**In your opinion, which of the following claims about the state budget that was recently approved is more correct? (Jews; %)**

**Growing share of Jewish and Arab Israelis do not think the police strike the right balance between public order and freedom to protest**

Among both Jewish (63%) and Arab (70%) Israelis, a majority of respondents do not agree that the police maintain the correct balance. Among Jews, this is up from 56% in November 2024. Among Arabs, there has been a more significant shift, with a sharp rise in the share who disagree, up from 44% in November 2024 to a majority of 70% in March 2025.

**70% Jewish Israelis; 46% Arab Israelis say life has gone back to normal**

We repeated a question asked several times previously about getting back to normal: “To what extent has your personal life (such as work, media consumption, get-togethers with family and friends, etc.) returned to normal, or close to normal, recently?” Around three-quarters of Jewish respondents and just under half of Arab respondents reported getting back to normal – similar to the last time we asked this in December 2024.

**Israelis planning to do fewer trips and leisure activities during Passover**

Ahead of the Passover holiday, we asked our Jewish respondents: “Relative to previous years, are you and your family planning to go out for hikes, trips, and leisure activities during this year’s Passover?” We found that a minority of 37% of the Jewish public are planning to engage in these activities to the same extent as in the years before the war, while 51% say they will do so to a lesser extent (29% because of the security situation, and 22% because of the economic situation).

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*The March 2025 Israeli Voice Index was prepared by the Viterbi Family Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research at the Israel Democracy Institute. The survey was conducted via the internet and by telephone (to include groups that are under-represented on the internet) between March 31 and April 6, 2025, with 598 men and women interviewed in Hebrew and 150 in Arabic, constituting a nationally representative sample of the adult population in Israel aged 18 and over. The maximum sampling error was ±3.58% at a confidence level of 95%. Field work was carried out by Shiluv I2R. The full data file can be found at:* [*https://dataisrael.idi.org.il*](https://dataisrael.idi.org.il)*.*