

## MAIN PARTIES

### Likud (right-wing)

- **Politics:** Combines ideological nationalists and security hawks. Although leader Netanyahu accepts the two-state solution, many Likudniks are sceptical. That said, several hard right candidates have been dropped. They have promised to change the system of government and they will also campaign on Netanyahu's leadership in dangerous times. The party is considered fiscally conservative.
- **Prospects:** 24 seats in BICOM Poll of Polls (BPoP), around level with 'Zionist Camp', but still favourite to form government.



### The Zionist Union (centre-left)

- **Politics:** An electoral pact between the Labour Party led by Isaac Herzog and Hatnuah led by Tzipi Livni, they accuse the right of extremism which polarises and isolates Israel. The party combines a socio-economic agenda with calls to advance the diplomatic process and improve Israel's standing.
- **Prospects:** 24 in BPoP, could struggle to form coalition. Unity government also possible.



### Jewish Home (right-wing)

- **Politics:** Led by Naftali Bennett, the party represents religious-Zionists and territorial nationalists, including settlers and the right in general, but with a broader appeal due to its young, populist leader. The party is staunchly opposed to a Palestinian state.
- **Prospects:** Around 13 seats in BPoP, they will back Netanyahu to form the next government.



### Yesh Atid (centre)

- **Politics:** A diverse list, hand-picked by former TV anchor and former Finance Minister Yair Lapid. The hit party of 2013, Yesh Atid seeks to represent the secular middle-class, and wants to continue economic and social reforms, e.g. on housing and living costs for working families.
- **Prospects:** Dropping to 11 seats in BPoP; would prefer to replace Netanyahu but won't rule out joining him.



### Kulanu (centre-right)

- **Politics:** New party founded by former Likud Communications Minister Moshe Kahlon, who gained popularity for reforms to Israel's telecommunications industry. Main focus on tackling 'monopolies', but Kahlon has also recruited high profile security and diplomatic candidates.
- **Prospects:** Around 8 in BPoP, likely to be a key kingmaker for whichever government.



### Yisrael Beiteinu (centre-right)

- **Politics:** A Jewish nationalist party dominated by Avigdor Lieberman. Despite hawkish record and rhetoric, Lieberman is trying to appeal to centrist voters, dropping hard-line candidates and proposing a peace plan. Their electoral fate may be impacted by ongoing corruption probe.
- **Prospects:** Dropping to 5 in BPoP, they are a potential partner for either Herzog or Netanyahu.



### United Arab List

- **Politics:** A merger of diverse and often fractious Arab parties, forced by the raising of the election threshold to 3.25 per cent. The 2013 election returned Balad (Arab nationalist), The Ra'am-Ta'al (a coalition of nationalists and Islamists), and Hadash (a Jewish-Arab former-Communist party).
- **Prospects:** Around 12 seats in BPoP, but unified list could boost Arab turnout, increasing their representation.

## SMALLER PARTIES

**United Torah Judaism (Yahadut Hatorah):** Ultra-Orthodox Ashkenazi party with a dependable base. Around 7 in BPoP.

**Shas:** Sephardi ultra-Orthodox party weakened by death of spiritual leader and internal splits. Around 7 in BPoP.

**Meretz:** The only self-identifying left-wing Zionist party. Around 5 seats in BPoP.

**Yahad:** Merger of former Shas head Eli Yishai and hard-right party led by Michael Ben-Ari. Around 4 seats in BPoP.