



## Israeli Public Opinion Poll, March 2021

### Two-State Coalition – Geneva Initiative

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In the lead up to the Israeli elections an increasing amount of discourse has suggested that the Israeli public is shifting more to the right as seat distribution in the Knesset indicates an ideological shift. Our poll sought to examine this issue, with a focus on assessing public support for the two-state solution broken down by party preference, among various other issues.

Please see below a story published in Haaretz on 16<sup>th</sup> March analyzing this subject, and below find our full poll results on a series of other topical matters, including the desired level of US involvement in reaching an agreement, the International Criminal Court's Decision and the participation of East Jerusalemites in Palestinian elections.

#### [Israel's Left-wing Camp Didn't Shrink. New Poll Finds What Happened to Its Voters](#) [March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Haaretz](#)

*Many supporters of a two-state solution have switched from leftist parties to Gideon Sa'ar's New Hope and Avigdor Lieberman's Yisrael Beiteinu, thereby giving the right a massive majority in the next Knesset, a new poll shows.*

*According to most recent polls, rightist parties will have around 80 seats in the next Knesset, significantly more than they had in the recent Knessets. Center-left parties are polling at a combined 30 seats on average, down from 45 in the current Knesset and 47 in the previous one.*

*But a new poll by the Midgam polling company, which was commissioned by the Geneva Initiative, shows that the left hasn't actually shrunk. Rather, many leftists have prioritized ousting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and decided that the best way to do so is to vote for rightist parties.*

*As a result, these strategic voters may end up enabling rightist parties to promote an agenda that contradicts their own worldview. If the polls are accurate about the size of rightist parties' majority, they would be able to promote diplomatic, economic and social policies suited to their ideology relatively easily, while center-left parties wouldn't be able to do much to stop them.*

*The new poll sought to discover how supporters of a two-state solution planned to vote. Surprisingly, 53.1 percent of Lieberman's voters, 44.3 percent of Sa'ar's and 32.6 percent of Netanyahu's said they supported a two-state solution. Even among supporters of Naftali Bennett's Yamina party, 23.1 percent preferred a two-state solution to a single state with full or partial equality for Palestinian citizens.*



*Based on this, the Geneva Initiative estimated that 12 seats' worth of voters who support two states are currently backing rightist parties – four seats for Yisrael Beiteinu, five for New Hope and three for Yamina. However, it noted, a two-state solution continues to command the support of a majority of Israelis, the equivalent of 65 or 66 seats in the 120-seat Knesset.*

*Another question in the poll was whether the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was a consideration in deciding whom to vote for this time around. A whopping 75 percent of respondents said it was either a secondary consideration or not a consideration at all, compared to only 20.5 percent who viewed it as an important electoral issue.*

*In contrast, a majority of respondents, 55.1 percent, said that ousting Netanyahu was an important consideration in casting their vote. The percentages were even higher for supporters of Sa'ar and Lieberman – the two heads of rightist parties who have made ousting Netanyahu a priority – at 68.8 and 69.5 percent, respectively.*

*This indicates that many supporters of a two-state solution are backing Lieberman and Sa'ar this time around primarily because they see it as the best way to oust Netanyahu.*

### Summary of the Main Findings

*The poll was commissioned by the Geneva Initiative and conducted between 4-7 March 2021 by the Midgam Institute headed by Mano Geva. The poll included 502 respondents, representative of the general population in Israel over the age of 18, with a maximum margin of error of  $\pm 4.4\%$ . It was conducted as part of the GI's Two-State Coalition Project, in partnership with the EU.*

#### **1. From among the following options, which solution do you prefer for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?**

- The two-state solution: 42%
- One state with less rights for Palestinians: 14%
- One state with equal rights for all citizens: 13%
- No opinion: 11%
- None of the above: 20%

#### **1a. Support for the two-state solution broken down by based on voter intentions in the next election.**

- Likud: 33%
- Yesh Atid: 74%
- New Hope (Sa'ar): 44%
- Yamina (Bennett): 23%
- Joint List: 51%



- Yisrael Beitenu (Lieberman): 53%
- Labor: 81%
- Meretz: 73%
- Kahol Lavan (Gantz) 39%
- Shas: 10%
- United Torah Judaism: 21%
- Ra'am (Abbas): 73%
- New Economic Party: 52%

**2. In the event that the Israeli government calls a referendum on a peace agreement with the Palestinians which includes the following articles: division into two states, the establishment of a demilitarized Palestinian state, evacuation of settlers, strict security arrangements, handing Arab neighborhoods in East Jerusalem over to Palestine, a solution to the refugee problem without giving right of return to Israel, mutual recognition, and agreement to the end of the conflict, would you vote for or against this peace agreement in the referendum?**

- For: 43%
- Against: 32%
- Don't know: 25%

**2a. Supports peace agreement detailed above (breakdown by party vote from last elections):**

- Likud : 39%
- Blue and White: 59%
- Labour-Gesher-Meretz: 86%
- Yisrael Beitenu (Lieberman): 46%
- Joint List: 42%
- Yamina (Bennet): 31%
- United Torah Judaism: 19%
- Shas: 16%

**3. In your opinion, will there or won't there be a future resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the basis of the two states for two people's solution?**

- There will be: 22%
- There won't be: 55%
- Don't know: 23%

**4. In your opinion, should Joe Biden, the new president of the United States, work to renew negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians?**

- Yes: 51%
- No: 29%
- No opinion: 20%



5. This May, there are planned elections for the Palestinian Authority's parliament. In your opinion, should Israel allow or not allow residents in Arab neighborhoods in East Jerusalem to vote in these elections?

- Should allow: 38%
- Should not allow: 36%
- Don't know: 26%

6. If Saudi Arabia agrees to normalize relations with Israel in exchange for a settlement building freeze and evacuation of illegal outposts, in your opinion should Israel sign the agreement with the Saudis or refuse?

- Should sign: 37%
- Should refuse: 37%
- Don't know: 26%

7. The International Criminal Court in the Hague decision to open an investigation against Israel on the events in Gaza and building in the settlements in the territories. What in your opinion should the State of Israel do, in light of this decision?

- Ignore the investigation and continue current policy: 41%
- Stop building in the settlements and make progress in the peace process: 27%
- Increase building in the settlements and punish the Palestinians: 13%
- Don't know: 19%

8. Following the International Criminal Court in the Hague's decision to open an investigation against Israel on the events in Gaza and building in the settlements in the territories, in hindsight do you think that building the settlements helped or harmed Israel?

- Harmed: 36%
- Helped: 32%
- Don't know: 32%

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