

Israel General Elections to the 18th Knesset - 10 February 2009
A Summary of Political Party Platforms from A to Z

Party Platforms of the Major Parties



The Israeli Labor Party - מפלגת העבודה הישראלית

Current Knesset Seats (1-2009): Labor = 18

Candidate for Prime Minister: Ehud Barak



Socio-economic Issues	Peace & Diplomacy	Religion & State	Security, Settlements
<p>Social justice, responsibility, social inclusion. The economy is not saved by cuts in social welfare that aggravate poverty. Narrow the social gap by a fairer distribution of resources and measures to reduce poverty.</p> <p>Accept free market economy, while protecting the jobs, conditions and wages of workers. Raise minimum wage, improve NI payments to the elderly, create compulsory contributory pension, invest to reduce unemployment. Increase investment in development of infrastructure, culture and social welfare programs, public housing. Comprehensive educational reform; free public education and health services.</p> <p>Equal rights and opportunities for all citizens.</p>	<p>Two states for two peoples. Seeks a just and lasting peace with secure and defensible borders for Israel.</p> <p>Supports land for peace formula; supported Disengagement Plan from Gaza. Seeks a return to the Road Map for Peace, towards a final status agreement based on pre-67 status quo. Jerusalem remains Israel's capital.</p> <p>No direct negotiations with Hamas. Israel should work to isolate Hamas internationally and should apply pressure on Hamas to change its doctrine. Partners for negotiation must recognize Israel's right to exist in secure and recognized borders.</p>	<p>A Peace agreement and two states will ensure a Jewish, democratic state.</p> <p>Opposes the passage of legislation in the Knesset denying the rights of non-Orthodox religious groups in Israel.</p> <p>Affirms the legitimacy of all religious streams.</p>	<p>The Security Fence is a vital defensive measure and should be completed. Its route will be based on legal and security considerations.</p> <p>Israel will retain major settlement blocs. Settlers who leave will receive fair compensation.</p> <p>Open to division of Jerusalem and separate sovereignty.</p>

http://www.knesset.gov.il/elections16/eng/lists/list_eng.asp?id=18

<http://www.avoda.org.il>

<http://www.ynet.co.il/english/articles/0,7340,L-3498355,00.html>

<http://www.nrg.co.il/online/1/ART1/819/975.html>

בל"ד - הברית הלאומית הדמוקרטית Balad - National Democratic Assembly

Current Knesset Seats (1-2009) = 3

Party Head: [Jamal Zahalka](#)

Socio-economic Issues	Peace & Diplomacy	Religion & State	Security, Settlements
<p>Israel is the state of all its citizens. Balad reflects interests in the Arab sector and aims to eliminate all state institutions and laws that discriminate against Arabs in Israel, including prejudice in the national budget.</p> <p>Israel should recognize and protect Arab national minority rights and grant cultural autonomy to Arabs in matters that distinguish them from the national majority. Demands recognition of unrecognized Arab villages. Rejects compulsory military service for Arab citizens.</p>	<p>Supports a peace agreement ensuring "the withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab territories and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state" in the "Occupied Territories, with East Jerusalem as its capital."</p> <p>Supports the Right of Return for all Arab refugees (1948, 1967).</p>	<p>Opposes any religious laws that are discriminatory towards the national minorities.</p> <p>Supports the separation of Religion and State</p> <p>Annul official recognition of Zionist organizations: Jewish Agency, Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael.</p>	<p>Settlements should be dismantled in the framework of a comprehensive peace agreement.</p> <p>Jerusalem as capital of Palestinian state.</p>

http://www.knesset.gov.il/elections16/eng/lists/list_eng.asp?id=11

http://www.knesset.gov.il/faction/eng/FactionPageCurrent_eng.asp?PG=103

<http://www.nrg.co.il/online/1/ART1/821/685.html> (Hebrew)

גיל – גימלאי ישראל לכנסת Gil - Pensioners of Israel to the Knesset

Current Knesset Seats (1-2009)=6

Party Head - Rafael Eitan

Socio-economic Issues	Peace & Diplomacy	Religion & State	Security, Settlements
<p>Improvement of Pensioners' rights: housing, health and culture.</p> <p>Promotion of democratic society, educational opportunities, hi-tech, economic prosperity.</p>	<p>No clear policy: Coalition with a government that seeks to achieve secure borders for Israel.</p>	<p>Separation of Religion and State.</p>	<p>No clear platform.</p>



http://www.knesset.gov.il/faction/eng/FactionPage_eng.asp?PG=191 http://www.knesset.gov.il/mk/eng/mk_eng.asp?mk_individual_id_t=794

<http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Government/Personalities/From+A-Z/Rafi+Eitan.htm>

<http://www.nrg.co.il/online/1/ART1/820/861.html> (Hebrew)

<http://news.nana10.co.il/Article/?ArticleID=363795&> (Hebrew, 2006)

חד"ש - החזית הדמוקרטית לשלום ולשוויון
Hadash - The Democratic Front for Peace and Equality
Current Knesset Seats=3
Party Head - [Mohammad Barakeh](#)



Socio-economic Issues	Peace & Diplomacy	Religion & State	Security, Settlements
<p>A Jewish-Arab party relatively classic communist – socialist position on: economy, labor, social welfare, health, education. Aims to draw larger Jewish Israeli vote and membership through merger with <i>Tarabut</i> socio-political movement.</p> <p>Primary issues: Social justice, equality; recognition of the national Arab-Palestinian minority and its rights – positive ethnic discrimination; greater cultural integration of the Arab minority; sexual equality. Investment in schools, urban rehabilitation. Transparency of government, freedom of information.</p> <p>Strong green (ecological) platform on: protection of environment, pollution, cellular antennae.</p>	<p>2 states for 2 peoples.</p> <p>Establishment of a Palestinian capital in the areas of Jerusalem annexed to Israel after June 1967 (East Jerusalem).</p> <p>Complete withdrawal from all areas conquered in the Six Day War. Pursue a "just settlement of the refugee issue"; All provisions should be anchored by peace agreements.</p> <p>Opposes the Security Fence.</p>	<p>Israel as a state of all its citizens, full equality for Arab citizens.</p> <p>Separation of religion and state. Civil marriage and divorce. Abolition of coercive religious law. Freedom of conscience.</p> <p>"... opposed to the passage of legislation in the Knesset which would deny the rights of non-Orthodox religious groups in Israel."</p>	<p>All settlements over pre-1967 borders are illegal and should be evacuated, including East Jerusalem.</p> <p>Division of sovereignty in Jerusalem.</p> <p>Merged with <i>Tarabut</i> the Anti-Fence movement/lobby, on Israeli political left.</p>

http://www.knesset.gov.il/elections16/eng/lists/list_eng.asp?id=23
http://www.knesset.gov.il/faction/eng/FactionPageCurrent_eng.asp?PG=12
<http://www.hadash.org.il/english/index.html> <http://www.hadash.org.il/> (Hebrew, English)
<http://www.nrg.co.il/online/1/ART1/821/663.html> (Hebrew)

Habayit Hayehudi - The New Mafdal Party הבית היהודי-מפד"ל החדשה

Current Knesset Seats (1-2009)=5

Party Head: Prof. Daniel HersHKovitz

Split from: Ichud Leumi-Moledet –Tekuma-Mafdal/NRP, New Religious Zionism



Socio-economic Issues	Peace & Diplomacy	Religion & State	Security, Settlements
<p>Right-wing, focusing on a redemptive religious Zionist platform.</p> <p>Better employment, immigration assistance; housing, education programs; improve medical care and social welfare; ensure reasonable income level.</p> <p>Promote and finance excellence in education, with integration of Jewish/Zionist values.</p> <p>Advocates a democratic Jewish state.</p>	<p>Supports direct peace negotiations with all the Arab states and with the Arabs of Israel, based on the following principles: ensuring full and abiding security for the individual and the state; uncompromising battle against terror; no Palestinian state west of the Jordan; unified Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the people of Israel and the State of Israel alone; negotiated autonomy for Arabs of the Territories; no Arab "right of return".</p>	<p>"Israel is a Jewish and democratic state. As such it will protect equal rights for all its citizens and residents. The standing of the legislative authority will be strengthened and the independence of the judiciary will be honored."</p> <p>To ensure Israel's Jewish character by promulgating the heritage and values of the Jewish People. Favors legislation to ensure the Jewish nature of the State.</p>	<p>Emphasis on renewing significance of Judaism and Zionism in Eretz Yisrael, and the settlements. Promotes active settlement in all areas of Eretz Yisrael to create a vibrant economy, and a strong Jewish presence and ensure security.</p> <p>Opposes all uprooting of settlements and territorial compromise on Jerusalem.</p> <p>Affirmation of Israeli sovereignty over the Temple Mount.</p>

http://www.knesset.gov.il/faction/eng/FactionPageCurrent_eng.asp?PG=200

http://www.knesset.gov.il/faction/eng/FactionPageCurrent_eng.asp?PG=201

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_Home

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Religious_Party

<http://www.mafdal.org.il/> (Hebrew)

<http://www.nrg.co.il/online/1/ART1/820/795.html> (NRP Hebrew)

<http://elections.walla.co.il/?w=/13375/@entity> (Hebrew)

<http://www.haaretz.co.il/hasite/spages/1044823.html> (Hebrew)

Ichud Leumi – האיחוד הלאומי

Current Knesset Seats – 10

Party Head – Yehuda Katz (Running with HaBayit HaLeumi for 18th Knesset)

Split from: Ichud Leumi-Moledet – Tekuma-Mafdal/NRP, New Religious Zionism



Socio-economic Issues	Peace & Diplomacy	Religion & State	Security, Settlements
<p>Right wing, nationalist platform; promotion of a democratic Jewish state and Zionist renewal</p> <p><i>Advocates for:</i> A liberal economy, elimination of monopolies, narrow social gap and fostering equality; drastic reduction of the public sector, encouragement of private enterprise. Promote and finance excellence in education. Reinforce the status of Hebrew language.</p> <p>Pledge of loyalty as condition for citizenship. Clean government, elimination of financial and media connection to political power.</p> <p>Only those who serve in the IDF should have the right to be elected to the Knesset.</p>	<p>"Peace for peace" – with Israel retaining current borders - to be achieved by agreement, and resolution of the refugee problem . via "population exchange."</p> <p>Supports direct peace negotiations with all the Arab states and with the Arabs of Israel, based on: ensuring full and abiding security for the individual and the state; uncompromising battle against terror; no Palestinian state west of the Jordan; unified Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the people of Israel and the State of Israel alone; negotiated autonomy for Arabs of the Territories; no Arab "right of return" to Israel.</p>	<p>Democratic Jewish state. Enhance Jewish and national Zionist identity through education to Jewish history and values, based on Jewish sources.</p> <p>Supports a constitution that legislates for the Jewish and Zionist nature of the State of Israel.</p> <p>No specific religious platform: aims to represent a broader constituency of the Israeli right-wing.</p>	<p><i>Eretz Yisrael</i> is the Jewish national home of all the Jewish People.</p> <p>Opposes all uprooting of settlements. Promotes active settlement in all areas of Eretz Yisrael to create a vibrant economy, a strong Jewish presence, and ensure security.</p> <p>Opposes territorial compromise on Jerusalem. Affirmation of Israeli sovereignty over the Temple Mount.</p> <p>Israel will not surrender to terror. Destroy Terror infrastructure by removing all terrorists, weapons and bomb factories from Judea, Samaria & Gaza.</p> <p>Will work to preserve the integrity of <i>Eretz Yisrael</i> and its environment.</p>

- <http://www.leumi.org.il/index.php>
- http://www.knesset.gov.il/faction/eng/FactionPageCurrent_eng.asp?PG=202
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Union_\(Israel\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Union_(Israel))
- <http://www.haaretz.co.il/hasite/spages/1044823.html> (Hebrew)
- <http://www.nrg.co.il/online/1/ART1/823/330.html> (Hebrew)
- <http://elections.walla.co.il/?w=/14712/@entity> (Hebrew)



Socio-economic Issues	Peace & Diplomacy	Religion & State	Security, Settlements
<p>Israel has lost its international competitive edge and the widening social gap threatens the fabric of Israeli society.</p> <p>A regulated, liberal market economy will increase prosperity, Need for equality of funding in education; encouraging increased employment and retraining through adult education; a social safety network for the disabled and the aged; reform of the health system; development of the Negev and Galilee; reduce number of foreign workers. Investment in R&D technologies, support for small businesses. Further privatization; curbs on monopolies.</p> <p>Reduction of government expenditure, streamlining of government infrastructure and offices. Transparency of government</p> <p>Integration and complete equality of rights for Israel's minorities.</p>	<p>"Two nation states, based on existing demographic realities," living side by side.in peace and security.</p> <p>Territorial compromise is required to ensure a sovereign, democratic Jewish national state, and will be based on bilateral processes/agreements.</p> <p>Peace agreement establishing Palestinian statehood to include the "cessation of all Palestinian claims towards Israel, including refugees."; as well as renunciation of terror, dismantling of terrorist infrastructure; Palestinian state will be demilitarized.</p> <p>Israel will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ retain areas that are crucial for its security. ○ retain Jewish holy places that are of central religious and national importance. ○ retain the large Jewish settlement blocs." 	<p>Importance of core Jewish and democratic values, improve relations with Jewish communities in the Diaspora.</p> <p>Resolve the issue of those who cannot marry in Israel.</p>	<p>Objective is a sovereign, democratic, secure, Jewish national state.</p> <p>Security Fence must be completed to ensure maximum security for Israeli citizens, taking into account humanitarian needs of Palestinians.</p> <p>Dismantling of illegal settlements. Retention of major settlement blocs.</p> <p>Need for "unremitting war" on terrorists, terrorist infrastructure.</p> <p>Position on Jerusalem: Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and open to separation of Arab villages; unclear on Old City.</p>

http://www.knesset.gov.il/faction/eng/FactionPageCurrent_eng.asp?PG=185

<http://www.kadima.org.il>

<http://www.nrg.co.il/online/1/ART1/819/936.html>

הליכוד Likud

Current Knesset Seats (12), with Achi אחי (2)

Candidate for Prime Minister - [Benjamin Netanyahu](#)



Socio-economic Issues	Peace & Diplomacy	Religion & State	Security, Settlements
<p>A strong, competitive market economy creates a strong society.</p> <p>Rapid economic growth based on private investment, with necessary reforms due to the prevailing economic crisis including tax reform to encourage investment and employment; reduction of budget deficit, especially bureaucracy and waste in the public sector, reduction of welfare benefits to those who can work; promotion of return to work for unemployed; new jobs for high unemployment areas.</p> <p>Improve transport infrastructure to the periphery; open skies policy on air transport. Law and order: safety of citizens; zero tolerance for organized crime.</p>	<p>Support peace negotiations, but will negotiate only with sincere partners who reject terrorism, recognize Israel's right to exist, and engage in a process based upon reciprocity.</p> <p>Israel's borders will be based on the security value of decisive geographic features. Rejects a return to pre-1967 borders, or any resolution of borders without an adequate strategic security envelope, and a stable and reciprocal peace agreement</p> <p>"Peace agreements will include full diplomatic relations, borders open to free movement, economic cooperation, and the establishment of joint projects in the fields of science, technology, tourism, and industry."</p> <p>De facto, has acknowledged that Israel is proceeding towards a two-state resolution of the conflict.</p>	<p>"We shall have to ease tensions between the secular and religious, Arab and Jew, Diaspora Jews and Israelis. The intensity of these tensions is often exaggerated, but they do exist. They should be ameliorated through dialogue and compromise, not judicial coercion, abrasive legislation and offensive rhetoric..."</p>	<p>Unilateral territorial concessions offer a reward for terror, and weakens moderate Arab voices.</p> <p>The pre-1967 borders are not secure and are only a staging point for the terrorist movements.</p> <p>Israel should defend itself against terror and protect its citizens: Gaza is a mini-state of terror, under Hamas control. In Judea and Samaria, this potential is greater and represents a threat to Jerusalem, too.</p> <p>The Security Fence should be completed and illegal outposts removed, to reduce friction with the Palestinian population.</p> <p>Opposes any territorial compromise on Jerusalem.</p>

http://www.knesset.gov.il/elections16/eng/lists/list_eng.asp?id=16

http://www.knesset.gov.il/faction/eng/FactionPageCurrent_eng.asp?PG=13

<http://www.likud.co.il/> [Hebrew]

<http://www.nrg.co.il/online/1/ART1/820/802.html>

Meretz /New Movement מרץ התנועה החדשה

Current Knesset Seats=5

Party Head: Haim Oron



Was Meretz-Yahad in the 17th Knesset

Socio-economic Issues	Peace & Diplomacy	Religion & State	Security, Settlements
<p>Social and financial legislation to create a stronger, more cohesive democratic society and ensure equality of social rights and opportunity for all: providing universal health services, free education and adequate welfare benefits for those who cannot work.</p> <p>Provision for underrepresented sectors – handicapped, homosexuals, women, and non-Jewish minorities, elderly, children.</p> <p>Improvement of minimum wage and reform of labor conditions. Retraining for the unemployed. Improved access to higher education and culture.</p> <p>Tax reform similar to other developed countries, and the institution of inheritance tax. Fund new housing for tens of the thousands of homeless families; realistic mortgages for young couples, purchase of public housing. Reduction of length of military service, equality of service commitments.</p> <p>Strong democratic platform on clean government, enforcement of the law. Significant green platform on the environment.</p>	<p>Supports a 2-state solution, based on the pre-1967 borders, with necessary modifications in a formal agreement.</p> <p>Israel should strive to integrate itself in the Middle East and seek a regional settlement.</p> <p>Dialogue with the Palestinian Authority, in order to strengthen moderates against Hamas. Avoid collective punishment of the Palestinian people in response to terror. The Palestinian Authority must prove through its actions that it is making every effort to prevent terrorist acts against Israel.</p>	<p>Advocates a liberal approach to religious issues: supports separation of religion from state, civil rights and equality, civil marriage and divorce. Advocates the freedom to open shops and run transport on Shabbat, although Shabbat will continue to be the public day of rest.</p> <p>Argues that the Law of Return should apply to any person who declares in good faith that he/she is Jewish and not just by Halachic standards.</p> <p>Opposed the Tal Law because of exemptions for Yeshiva students.</p> <p>Strives for the annulment of any law that conflicts with the Basic Law on the Dignity of Man and Personal Freedom.</p>	<p>Illegal settlements should be removed; small and isolated settlements are a security burden. End expropriation of Palestinian lands for settlements construction. Settlements should be dismantled: offer incentives to families that choose to live inside Israel's pre-1967 borders.</p> <p>Territorial compromise over Jerusalem as capital city of Israel and Palestinian state.</p> <p>Opposes the current route of the Security Fence, but supports the existence of a security barrier along the pre-67 border, although not inside Jerusalem.</p> <p>Opposes the use of administrative detention for Palestinian suspects.</p>

http://www.knesset.gov.il/elections16/eng/lists/list_eng.asp?id=20

http://www.knesset.gov.il/faction/eng/FactionPageCurrent_eng.asp?PG=194

<http://www.meretz.org.il/> (Hebrew, English)

<http://www.nrg.co.il/online/1/ART1/820/685.html> (Hebrew)

רע"מ-תע"ל רש' ערבית מאוחדת Ra'am-Ta'al The United Arab List/ The Arab Movement For Renewal
Current Knesset Members =4
Party Head – [Ahmad Tibi](#)



Socio-economic Issues	Peace & Diplomacy	Religion & State	Security, Settlements
<p>Seeks equality of rights and opportunities for Arab citizens of Israel, including dedicated funding. Reflects Arab, Islamic and Beduin sectors.</p> <p>Seeks to close the economic and social gap existing between the Arabs and Jews through affirmative action type projects in fields such as: agriculture, industry, education, housing communication, and health. Promotes establishment of an Arab university in Israel.</p> <p>Develop the infrastructure of the streets in Arab regions and promote road safety; cancel the VAT imposed on properties; recognize the non-recognized villages; resolve the internal refugee problem.</p> <p>Rejects military service for Israel's Arab minority.</p>	<p>Supports a 2-state solution for 2 peoples, based on June 4, 1967 borders, with Arab Jerusalem as its capital [division of Jerusalem]. Palestine will live side by side with the Israeli state.</p> <p>Calls for a fair solution for Palestinian refugees, based on UN resolutions.</p> <p>Relinquishing weapons of mass destruction by Israel and other states.</p>	<p>Equality should be given to all religions in Israel. Separation of religion and state.</p> <p>Educate youth towards the identity and history of the Arab Palestinian population in Israel," paralleling the Jewish emphasis in the state religious educational system.</p> <p>Moslem holy sites should revert to legal owners; all religious sites should enjoy financial support. Sharia court system should be independent.</p>	<p>Dismantling of all settlements over the Green Line.</p> <p>Jerusalem to be divided between Israel and a Palestinian State.</p>

http://www.knesset.gov.il/elections16/eng/lists/list_eng.asp?id=14
http://www.knesset.gov.il/faction/eng/FactionPageCurrent_eng.asp?PG=193
<http://www.nrg.co.il/online/1/ART1/821/694.html> (Hebrew)

Shas ש"ש

Current Knesset Seats = 12

Party Head: Eliyahu Yishai



Socio-economic Issues	Peace & Diplomacy	Religion & State	Security, Settlements
<p>A social rights law covering: education, housing, health, welfare, work.</p> <p>Minimum wage for unskilled labor and fair professional wage demands for skilled labor and qualified workers; end of sub-contracted government/ public positions to manpower companies; inclusion of all wage components towards pension; positive discrimination for women. Return and improvement of child allowances to previous levels, as the true form of "negative taxation" – Israel almost halved its family allocations in recent years.</p> <p>Education: equal allocations for all schools, in all education systems, especially in the periphery; improved teacher salaries; free education from kindergarten through high school; subsidized higher education; education for women; partial subsidies for school lunches.</p> <p>Compulsory, adequate pension; investment in the economy and infrastructure; tax incentives for low wage earners; recognition of child care charges for tax purposes; reduce number of foreign workers; health system reform.</p>	<p>Shas opposed the Oslo Accords and the Road Map; opposed the Disengagement Plan on the grounds that it was unilateral, not an agreement, and thus presented a danger to the security of Israeli citizens.</p> <p>However R. Ovadiah Yosef has in the past voiced support for territorial compromise if it can prove to prevent the loss of life.</p>	<p>Israel is the state of the Jewish People. Public bodies should reflect the Jewish nature of the country, within the preservation of the status quo [e.g.: no transport on Shabbat, no businesses on Shabbat].</p> <p>The state is responsible for providing essential religious services, protection of places of worship; it should also provide for research into Jewish heritage and support Torah institutions.</p> <p>Accepts the Tal Law and professionalization of the ultra-orthodox community.</p>	<p>Views the development of all of Eretz Yisrael as equally important, including: government authorized settlement development in Judea & Samaria; development of the Negev & Galilee; development of Hi-Tech in the periphery; improved transport infrastructure, housing and education subsidies in the peripheral regions of Israel.</p> <p>Opposes any territorial division of Jerusalem and any territorial compromise that poses a security threat to Israel.</p>

http://www.knesset.gov.il/elections16/eng/lists/list_eng.asp?id=28

http://www.knesset.gov.il/faction/eng/FactionPageCurrent_eng.asp?PG=2

Shas (Party website in Hebrew)

<http://www.nrg.co.il/online/1/ART1/820/570.html> (Hebrew)

United Torah Judaism יהדות התורה
Current Knesset Seats=6
Party Head - [Yaakov Litzman](#)



Union of Agudat Yisrael and Degel HaTorah

Socio-economic Issues	Peace & Diplomacy	Religion & State	Security, Settlements
<p>No major declared economic platform; represents its demographically growing ultra-orthodox constituency throughout Israel.</p> <p>Campaigns for welfare system and education through financial support for its constituency and institutions, incl. state-supported <i>Chinuch Atzma'i</i>-independent education system.</p> <p>Maintains that Jewish education for all the children of Israel should always be prime on government agenda.</p>	<p>No declared platform.</p>	<p>Non-Zionist party.</p> <p>Believes that Israeli culture leads to loss of Jewish identity.</p> <p>Seeks to strengthen its understanding of the Jewish nature of Israel.</p> <p>Rabbinical courts should have the same status as other courts of law. Actively opposes civil marriage and recognition of non-Orthodox conversions inside or out of Israel, as well as non-Orthodox participants on local religious councils.</p> <p>Opposed the Tal Law on IDF service. Women should not serve in the army.</p>	<p>No declared security platform – largely pragmatic approach.</p> <p>UTJ enjoys growing support by settlers but attributes trend to its religious policies, rather than to any pro-settlement policy.</p>

- http://www.knesset.gov.il/elections16/eng/lists/list_eng.asp?id=26
- http://www.knesset.gov.il/faction/eng/FactionPageCurrent_eng.asp?PG=8
- <http://www.nrg.co.il/online/1/ART1/820/843.html>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Torah_Judaism
- http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/363_Transp/Orthodoxy/Aguddah.html



Socio-economic Issues	Peace & Diplomacy	Religion & State	Security, Settlements
<p>Law and Order.</p> <p>No declared platform on other issues, but promotes the integration of olim into Israeli life, equal rights and equal obligations for all.</p>	<p>Israel faces internal, local and regional threats, as well as a demographic threat that can be addressed in different ways.</p> <p>Israel must negotiate the final borders and work only towards a final status agreement which ensures an end to <i>all</i> claims against Israel.</p> <p>Set definitive borders with Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon. A final status agreement should preserve major Israeli settlement blocs close to the pre-1967 borders.</p>	<p>A Citizenship Law should be legislated to ensure equal rights and equal responsibilities. Every citizen should declare allegiance to the Israel Declaration of Independence, including olim who immigrate under the Law of Return.</p> <p>The State should endeavor to bring olim from the USSR/Russia closer to Jewish values.</p> <p>Every citizen should be obliged to fulfill the obligation to military or national service: those who refuse should lose their citizenship and be granted permanent residency.</p>	<p>No Security Fence in history has prevented war or provided security over a long period.</p> <p>The Hamas election victory in the PA is proof of the serious threat of Palestinian terror.</p> <p>The final status agreement should preserve major Israeli settlement blocs close to the pre-1967 borders; prefers an exchange of territories rather than territorial concession. The terms should be accepted by consensus in Israel and supported by major international players.</p> <p>No territorial compromise over Jerusalem.</p>

http://www.knesset.gov.il/elections16/eng/lists/list_eng.asp?id=27
http://www.knesset.gov.il/faction/eng/FactionPageCurrent_eng.asp?PG=101
 Yisrael Beytenu (English) <http://www.beytenu.org.il/>
<http://www.nrg.co.il/online/1/ART1/820/093.html> (Hebrew)

Breakaway Parliamentary Groups inside the 17th Knesset

National Arab Party **המפלגה הלאומית הערבית**

Current Knesset Members=1

Muhamad Kanan

Arab Center Party/Hizb Al Wasat Al-Arabi (ex-UAL moderate Islamic)

Current Knesset Members=1

Abbas Z'koor

Not standing for election for the 18th Knesset

Socio-economic Issues	Peace & Diplomacy	Religion & State	Security, Settlements
Focus on addressing equal rights and hardships of all sects of Israeli Arab citizens, through resolving issues of education, infrastructure, industry, and poverty. Distinguishes Israeli Arab population from the Palestinian people.	Would join a leftist coalition that supports peace.	Equal rights.	Similar to Ra'am/UAL

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3632929,00.html>

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1227702420982&pagename=Jpost%2FJPArticle%2FshowFull>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Centre_Party

The Right Way **הדרך הטובה**

Current Knesset Members= 1)

Elhanan Glazer

Breakaway from the faction that broke with Gil (which later rejoined Gil) in the 17th Knesset.

Socio-economic Issues	Peace & Diplomacy	Religion & State	Security, Settlements
Pensioners' rights, social democracy.			

http://www.knesset.gov.il/faction/eng/FactionPageCurrent_eng.asp?PG=196

Other Political Parties (Not Represented in the 17th Knesset)

Green Leaf Party – Ale Yarok עלה ירוק

Party Head - Gil Kopatch

Socio-economic Issues	Peace & Diplomacy	Religion & State	Security, Settlements
<p>Would propose legislation to legalize cannabis for medical and recreative purposes.</p> <p>Supports a more balanced tax system; improved social support systems for victims of crimes; subsidies to environmentally friendly economic ventures.</p> <p>Supports animal rights, controlled prostitution, equal rights for gays and lesbians, and strengthened rights for foreign workers.</p> <p>Substantial increased state aid for Holocaust survivors.</p>	<p>2 secure states for 2 peoples. Peace can only be achieved by painful territorial concessions by both sides.</p> <p>Green Leaf supports 2-state solution based on pre-67 borders, with minor adjustments.</p>	<p>Supports separation of religion from state and the recognition of all streams of Judaism.</p> <p>Opposes state funding of religious institutions that do not meet educational criteria; opposes the Tal Law and exemption from military service.</p> <p>Supports public transport on Shabbat, civil marriage.</p>	<p>No declared platform</p>



http://www.knesset.gov.il/elections16/eng/lists/list_eng.asp?id=2

<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1045434.html>

<http://ale-yarok.org.il/> (Hebrew)

The Green Movement/Meimad - Hatenu'ah Hayerukah/ Meimad הירוקה התנועה-מימד
Party Heads - Eran Ben-Yemini; [Michael Melchior](#)



MK Melchior sits in the 17th Knesset representing Meimad

Socio-economic Issues	Peace & Diplomacy	Religion & State	Security, Settlements
<p>Development of sustainable energy resources, and affordable public transport.</p> <p>Green platform needs to be holistic with all other factors.</p> <p>Equality of opportunity and education. Democracy and equality of all citizens, personal freedom. Multiculturalism and tolerance.</p>	<p>Peace as an economic and environmental necessity. (<i>Meimad</i>) Accepts the principle of land for peace. Though Jews have right to Land of Israel, the good of the people of Israel takes precedence over the land itself.</p> <p>Jerusalem is and should remain united capital of Israel.</p>	<p>Democracy and equality of all citizens, personal freedom.. Multiculturalism and tolerance. Dialogue within Judaism. (<i>Meimad</i>)</p> <p>Incorporate Orthodox religious practice in Israeli public life, without restrictive legislation.</p> <p>Supports democratic practices in the Jewish state, education to democratic values in the school system.</p>	<p>Peace as an economic and environmental necessity. (Similar to the Labor Party)</p>

- http://yeruka.org.il/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=724&Itemid=249
- <http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1226404769699&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>
- <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1045325.html>
- <http://www.melchior.org.il/english/index.asp>
- <http://www.yeruca.org.il/> <http://www.yeruka.org.il/> (Hebrew, Arabic, Spanish)
- <http://yarok.walla.co.il/?w=//1388427> (Hebrew)
- <http://www.nrg.co.il/online/1/ART1/820/110.html> (Hebrew)
- <http://www.nrg.co.il/online/1/ART1/820/204.html> (Hebrew)
- <http://www.melchior.org.il/> (Hebrew)

Green Party הירוקים
Peer Weissner



Socio-economic Issues	Peace & Diplomacy	Religion & State	Security, Settlements
<p>End destruction of the environment: fight against health and environmentally damaging factors, such as cellular antenna transmissions, pollution of Israel's air and water aquifers.</p> <p>Increased government support and development for clean energy, transport, clean agriculture.</p> <p>Foster growth of civil society, equality and freedom for citizens.</p> <p>Legislate a constitution for Israel. Increased transparency of government.</p> <p>Foster development, education, personal dignity.</p> <p>Reduce rate of population growth and inducements for immigration.</p>	<p>Will work towards peace between Israel and her neighbors, and cooperation, which will also bring economic prosperity.</p>	<p>To preserve the Jewish character of the State of Israel, while allowing for religious pluralism.</p> <p>To preserve an obligatory day of rest to prevent worker exploitation, which will be Shabbat. Limited public transport should run on Shabbat.</p> <p>Supports institution of civil marriage in Israel, recognition of single sex couples. Foster growth of civil society, equality and freedom for citizens. National Service for all.</p>	<p>No declared platform.</p>

http://www.knesset.gov.il/elections16/eng/lists/list_eng.asp?id=5
<http://www.green-party.co.il/>
http://www.knesset.gov.il/faction/eng/FactionPageCurrent_eng.asp?PG=198

Strong Israel - Yisrael Hazakah ישראל חזקה

Party Head - Efraim Sneh



Efraim Sneh is a former MK from the Labor Party. The party combines supporters *from Labor (Avodah), with Shinui activists, but has no current members of Knesset.*

Socio-economic Issues	Peace & Diplomacy	Religion & State	Security, Settlements
Center-Left party with a strong welfare state and social democratic platform, but aligned with economic growth. Promotion of: human rights, education, law enforcement, security; transparency and integrity of government. Significant green platform.	Two states for two peoples.	Equal status for all streams of Judaism.	Two states for two peoples.

<http://www.sneh.org.il/eng/articles/siteArticle.asp?aid=167&cid=58>

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=JPost/JParticle/ShowFull&cid=1222017466546>

<http://www.israelhazaka.org.il/14-he/StrongIsrael.aspx> (Hebrew, English, Russian)

<http://www.nrg.co.il/online/1/ART1/820/874.html> (Hebrew)

Israeli Political Parties - Web Resources

In English

בעברית

באתר הכנסת:

At the Knesset Website:

[17th Knesset: Current Functioning Parliamentary Groups](http://www.knesset.gov.il/faction/eng/FactionCurrent_eng.asp)

http://www.knesset.gov.il/faction/eng/FactionCurrent_eng.asp

[Current Members of Knesset by Parliamentary Group](http://www.knesset.gov.il/mk/eng/mkindex_current_eng.asp?view=1)

http://www.knesset.gov.il/mk/eng/mkindex_current_eng.asp?view=1

[Factional and Government Make-Up of the Seventeenth Knesset](http://www.knesset.gov.il/elections17/eng/list/ListIndex_eng.asp)

[Lists and Candidates](http://www.knesset.gov.il/elections17/eng/list/ListIndex_eng.asp)

http://www.knesset.gov.il/elections17/eng/list/ListIndex_eng.asp

At the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

[Elections in Israel – February 2009](http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/History/Modern+History/Historic+Events/Elections_in_Israel_February_2009.htm)

http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/History/Modern+History/Historic+Events/Elections_in_Israel_February_2009.htm

[Leading Personalities from A-Z](http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Government/Personalities/From+A-Z/)

<http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Government/Personalities/From+A-Z/>

Other Sources:

[Haaretz Special Report – Elections 2009](http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/pages/elections2009.jhtml?contrassID=1&subContrassID=32)

<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/pages/elections2009.jhtml?contrassID=1&subContrassID=32>

[The Israel Democracy Institute - Elections 2009](http://www.idi.org.il/sites/english/Pages/homepage.aspx)

<http://www.idi.org.il/sites/english/Pages/homepage.aspx>

[Jpost Special Report – Elections 2009](http://info.jpost.com/C006/Supplements/elections.2006/slips.html)

<http://info.jpost.com/C006/Supplements/elections.2006/slips.html>

בחירות לכנסת ה-18

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/elections18/heb/home.aspx>

סיעות המכהנות כיום – (1-09)

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/faction/heb/FactionCurrent.asp>

רשימות המועמדים לכנסת ה-17

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/elections17/heb/list/ListIndex.asp>

רשימת המועמדים לפי סדר הגשתם

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/elections18/heb/list/ListsSubmitted.pdf>

אתרים מחשלתיים נוספים:

משרד המשפטים – רשם המפלגות – רשימת מפלגות

<http://www.justice.gov.il/MOJHeb/RashamMiflagot/reShimatMiflagot.htm>

בחירות 2009

<http://www.bhirot2009.co.il/home.yecms/index>

מקורות נוספים:

המכון הישראלי לדמוקרטיה – בחירות 2009

http://www.idi.org.il/Pages/Home_Page.aspx

YNET ישראל בוחרת

<http://www.ynet.co.il/home/0,7340,L-6974,00.html>

מעריב nrg בחירות 2009

http://www.nrg.co.il/online/1/HP_333.html

Gila Ansell Brauner & Scott Copeland

י' שבט תשס"ט / Feb-09