

Last update - 11:13 21/03/2006

The voters

By [Yoel Marcus](#)

1. The Deserter - This is our first election based on mass desertion. A party the size of Kadima doesn't come from nowhere. It is comprised of deserters. Deserters from the Likud; deserters from Labor; deserters from Shinui, leaving it an empty shell. Deserters from the right and deserters from the left. Even from Meretz. The nature of deserters is to be wracked with guilt. At the last minute, they have a tendency to run home. This might be particularly true for those who flocked after Sharon, only to find themselves saddled with Olmert. 44 seats? 42 seats? The final word has not been said.

2. The Grumbler - This is the voter who cries and complains. He has no money for medicine. The bank is pestering him. The mortgage never ends. What he sees up there is the dolce vita. Expensive cigars. Fancy cars. The public coffers being milked. He won't bother to vote. As far as he's concerned, they're all a bunch of crap.

3. The Revenge Seeker - All his life he's been loyal to the same party. Now he's reached the conclusion that it's never done a thing for him. All it did was exploit the fact that he needed a job in order to snag his vote. The Israel Aircraft Industries, the Israel Electric Corporation. They're all the same. Now he's been laid off. Netanyahu screwed him financially, and stabbed Sharon in the back. Sharon had a stroke. In revenge, he'll vote for one of the 31 parties that don't stand a chance of getting into the Knesset. Maybe Green Leaf.

4. The Floater - If all the floating voters banded together, they could establish a new party. The I'm-not-sure party. There are two kinds of floaters: the authentic floater, who is really undecided and enjoys being wooed; and the rational floater who makes up his mind based on the surveys: Labor in the government, yes, but not too strong; Kadima, yes, but not by a landslide, so victory won't go to its head. Past experience has shown that floaters vote in the end, and even tip the scales.

5. The Disillusioned - He used to vote for parties that challenged the creaky old establishment. Democratic Movement for Change, Shinui A, Shinui B. He supported a rotation government, but that ended with Labor playing a dirty

trick. The next generation, Bibi and Barak, were a disappointment. No promises were kept - no subway, no train to Eilat. Opportunism didn't pay. There was no improvement in security. The number of traffic accidents didn't drop. It never paid off, this betrayal of tribal loyalties. He longs to go home again. Back to the days of Levi Eshkol and Pinhas Sapir. He will step into the polling booth, shed a tear, and scribble "Never say die, we're sick of Mapai" on a blank slip.

6. The Smart Aleck - He talks politics non-stop. He goes to every parlor meeting. He watches all the political ads on TV. He bets on the election results with his friends. He hobnobs with the bigwigs. A political animal in the full sense of the word. But at the polls, he drops a blank slip into the box. "They can all kiss my you-know-what," he mutters to himself.

7. The Racist - He supported Herut and Likud, and sneered along with the rest of them when David Levy dreamed of succeeding Menachem Begin. "A Moroccan heir to Begin?" he gasped in horror, and promptly switched to Labor. He stuck with the party through thick and thin, until one day Amir Peretz was elected. What? A Moroccan party chairman? A Moroccan who wants to be prime minister? He'll vote Lieberman.

8. The Pretender - A free day? A holiday from work? Oh wow. He takes his time. The ballot box won't run away. He strolls down the street, and sees a long line at the polling station. He hangs out at a cafe. He remembers he has five unpaid parking tickets at home, and this is the tenth time his apartment has been broken into. Suddenly a friend appears, and asks "Who'd you vote for?" "You wouldn't believe me if I told you," he replies, with an air of mystery. He goes home to watch TV. It doesn't matter if he votes or not. The main thing is that people think he voted.

9. The Ex-Bibi Fan - A loyal member of the Likud since way back when. He has never missed a central committee meeting or an opportunity to sing in the "Hail to the King of Israel" choir. But he will never forgive Bibi. For launching Barak into power and disappearing. For screwing the underprivileged. For paving the way for Labor's return to power with Kadima. For the first time in his life, he won't be voting Likud.

10. The Manipulator - "Who are you going to vote for?" the pollsters asked him over and over, before the Labor primaries and now on the eve of the Knesset elections. And every time, he told them the opposite of what he was thinking - never the truth. Since an ordinary poll sample is about 500 people, each time he answered, he represented 10,000 voters. This explains why Peres thought he was winning when it was Peretz who took the pot. Now the Manipulator is waiting to see whether the surprise he has prepared for Kadima

works out as planned.

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