

Political Parties & Platforms

Running for Knesset on March 28, 2006 Israeli Elections

Sections:

- 1) Major Political Parties
- 2) Small Parties in the Knesset Running for Re-election
- 3) Small Parties Currently not in the Knesset

Major Political Parties



Party Leader: Ehud Olmert

Campaign Slogans: 1) Israel Wants Kadima. 2) Kadima (Forward) Sharon. 3) Moving Forward

Official Web Site: <http://www.kadimasharon.co.il>

Key Points In Platform:

- Supports a negotiated peace process based entirely on the 'Road Map' Peace Plan, eventually leading to the creation of a Palestinian state. However, will not negotiate with Hamas-led PA unless Hamas accepts Israel's right to exist and ends all violence.
- No further unilateral withdrawals; although Israel reserves the right to unilaterally draw final borders if the Palestinians do not fulfill their obligations under the Road Map.
- Favors keeping the 'major settlement blocks' (Ariel, Gush Etzion and Ma'alei Adumim) within the final borders of Israel.
- Governmental reform to stem the power of Central Committees in Israeli political parties.
- Continue to pursue a moderate, market-based economy.
- Plans to introduce legislation to legalize civil marriage and burial.



Party Leader: Amir Peretz

Campaign Slogans: Fighting Terror, Defeating Poverty

Official Web Site: www.Avoda.org.il

Key Points In Platform:

- Wants to restart negotiations with the Palestinians based upon the "land for peace" formula within the framework of the Oslo Accords. Have stated that they will not negotiate directly with Hamas, although would still consider negotiations with more moderate PA leaders (Mahmud Abbas).
- In favor of the creation of a Palestinian state
- Willing to consider unilateral withdrawal from certain parts of the West Bank
- Supports rolling back some of the economic privatization that has occurred in recent years. Also supports expansion of government social service and welfare systems
- Favors maintaining the religious status quo



Party Leader: Binyamin Netanyahu

Campaign Slogans: Strong against Hamas - Only (the Likud) Netanyahu

Official Web Site: www.Likud.org.il

Key Points In Platform:

- Has stated willingness to negotiate peace with Palestinian leadership "not compromised by terror", but adamantly refuses to negotiate with Hamas and any member of the Hamas-led PA.
- Not in favor of a Palestinian state, but concedes its likely inevitability.
- Opposed to dismantling of settlements
- Continue economic reforms started by Netanyahu as Finance Minister
- Favors maintaining status quo in religious/state issues

Small Parties Running for Re-election



Meretz-Yachad

Party Leader: Yossi Beilin

Campaign Slogans: On the Left, the Individual is at the Center!

Official Web Site: www.Meretz.org.il, www.myparty.org.il/main-branch/en/

Key Points In Platform:

- Left-wing social democratic secular party
- Supports a just and comprehensive peace between Israel and its neighbors
- Has historically supported direct negotiations with the Palestinians and continues to do so in theory, however, concedes that direct negotiations with Hamas is ill-advised at this time.
- Favors dismantling settlements and full withdrawal from West Bank
- Supports state recognition of non-Orthodox conversions and acceptance of patrilineal descent as source of Jewishness
- Human, civil rights and social justice agenda
- Ecology and a safe environment agenda

National Democratic Assembly (Balad)



Party Leader: Azmi Bishara

Campaign Slogans: TBA

Official Web Site: www.Balad.org

Key Points In Platform:

- Israeli Arab party
- Israel should be a democratic state of all its citizens
- Supports right of return for Arab refugees from the 1948 war
- Full Israeli withdrawal from West Bank and East Jerusalem
- Supports creation of a Palestinian state

National Union-National Religious Party (Mafdal)



Party Leader: Benyamin Elon

Campaign Slogans: Leaving the Likud: A New Right Rises. We're All Right!

Official Web Site: www.Leumi.org.il, www.Mafdal.org.il

Key Points In Platform:

- Coalition of right-wing parties, both religious (NRP) and secular (Moledet & Tekuma) parties
- Against further withdrawals from the West Bank, based on the on security, Biblical and Zionist beliefs
- Against any concessions to the Palestinian Authority and rejects all negotiations with the PA and/or Hamas.
- Against the creation of a Palestinian state.
- Voluntary transfer of Arabs living in refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza to other Arab countries
- Tough attitude towards security
- Strengthening of the state education system

Shas



Party Leader: Eliyahu Yishai

Campaign Slogans: 1) Those for G-d, To Me! 2) A True Social Leader 3) Choose Life

Official Web Site: www.shasnet.org.il

Key Points In Platform:

- Sephardic religious movement, led by spiritual mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef
- Governmental policies should be based on strict Jewish law
- In the past, prepared to relinquish land in return for peace, but uncomfortable with this policy given increased terror



Shinui

Party Leader: Ron Lowenthal

Campaign Slogans: Shinui - Home of secular Israelis and the middle class

Official Web Site: www.Shinui.org.il

Key Points In Platform:

- Liberal, Zionist, secular party
- For a secular state in form of separating religion and state
- In favor of territorial compromise for peace, but tough on security
- Supports a free-market economy and privatization of government owned businesses

What the critics are saying about Shinui:

Shinui is destined to die in this election. Kadima has replaced Shinui as Israel's centrist voice, without the vehement anti-religious stance espoused by Shinui's leadership.

Hadash - Democratic Front for Peace



Party Leader: Mohammad Barakeh

Campaign Slogans: Two States for Two People

Official Web Site: www.Hadash.org.il

Key Points In Platform:

- Communist ideology
- Improving status of disadvantaged Israelis
- Formation of democratic and secular constitution
- Improving rights for Israeli Arabs and women
- Supports Israel as a state of all its citizens rather than a 'Jewish State'
- Supports formation of a Palestinian state
- Supports rights of Palestinian refugees of 1948 to either return ("right of return") or be compensated for property abandoned

United Arab List



Party Leader: Ibrahim Tzartzur

Campaign Slogans: TBA

Official Web Site: TBD

Key Points In Platform:

- Union of three Israeli Arab parties - United Arab Party (Ra'am), Arab National Party (Mada) and Islamic Movement
- Israel should become a state of all its inhabitants and not have overtly Jewish character
- Full Israeli withdrawal from West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem
- Establishment of Palestinian state with Jerusalem as capital
- Right of return for Palestinian refugees of 1948

Shabbat & Torah Judaism (United Torah Judaism)



Party Leader: Yakov Litzman

Campaign Slogans: So that we can live here!

Official Web Site: None

Key Points In Platform:

- Coalition of Ashkenazi ultra-orthodox parties
- Governmental policies should be based on Jewish law
- Believes the Land of Israel was given by G-d to the Jewish People
- Advocate on behalf of their constituency regarding government budgets and social services

Yisrael Beitenu-'Israel is our Home'



Party Leader: Avigdor Lieberman

Campaign Slogans: Who fill fight the raging crime on the streets? Olmert, Netanyahu, Lieberman "nyet, nyet, da" (no, no, yes in Russian)

Official Website: <http://www.beytenu.org.il/>

Key Points in Platform:

- Right wing party
- Strong security and anti-crime platform
- Rejects negotiations with Hamas-led PA
- Supports re-drawing the borders to maximize the number of Jews and minimizing the number of Arabs within the future permanent borders of Israel by exchanging Israeli lands heavily populated by Arabs (the Arab triangle in the Northern Galilee) for the large settlement blocks and the Jordan valley.

Small Parties (Not in the Knesset Now)

Brit Olam

Party Leader: Ofer Lifschitz
Campaign Slogans: n/a
Official Website: n/a
Key Points in Platform:

- Changing perceptions to put people in the center

Da'am-The Workers Party



Party Leader: Agvaria Asama
Campaign Slogans:
Official Website: <http://www.odaction.org/>
Key Points in Platform:

- Marxist party operating inside Israel to organize the working class, especially the Arab workers.
- Opposed to the current Israeli government
- Opposed to the current PA & Muslim fundamentalism

Gil

Party Leader: Eitan Pentman Rephael
Campaign Slogans: n/a
Official Website: n/a
Key Points in Platform:

- Advocating on behalf of senior citizens

Green Leaf Party

Party Leader: Boaz Wachtel
Campaign Slogans: A vote for freedom
Official Web Site: www.Ale-Yarok.org.il
Key Points In Platform:

- Advocates legalization of cannabis for medicinal and recreational use



Greens

Party Leader: Pe'er Weissner
Campaign Slogans: Defending the Land
Official Web Site: www.Green-Party.org.il
Key Points In Platform:

- Focused on improving quality of life in Israel - particularly as relates to safeguarding the environment



HaLev

Party Leader: Eliezer Levinger
Campaign Slogans: n/a
Official Website: <http://hlv.org.il/>
Key Points in Platform:

- Party dedicated to fighting the power of the banks in Israel



Herut

Party Leader: Michael Kleiner
Campaign Slogans: Bringing back a voice on the Right (Slogan is a play on words, can be read: Bringing back everything to the Right)
Official Web Site: <http://www.herut.org.il>
Key Points In Platform:

- Unflinching right-wing platform based on security and demographic rationale including support of Aliyah, promoting increased Jewish birthrates and limiting non-Jewish emigration to Israel.
- The Torah and Jewish tradition should serve as the foundation for the State of Israel
- Full responsibilities for all citizens of Israel including national service by the Arab population.

Hetz- Secular Zionist Party

Party Leader: Avraham Poraz

Campaign Slogans: I'm too am a secular arrow (Hetz in Hebrew is arrow).

Official Website: <http://www.hetz.org.il/>

Key Points in Platform:

- Break-away from Shinui
- Ardently secular party, advocating the extreme separation of religion and state in Israel
- Supports establishment of a Palestinian state

Jewish National Front (Hazit)

Party Leader: Baruch Marzel

Campaign Slogans: TBA

Official Website: <http://www.hazit.co.il/>

Key Points in Platform:

- Far-Right Party
- Advocates Presidential system of government and regional elections to bring accountability to constituents to members of Knesset
- Supports economic reforms to make Israel a true market economy
- Reform of the judicial system to make judiciary more representative of Israeli society.
- Amendment of the Law of Return to eliminate the 'grandparent clause' that allows many non-Jews to make aliyah.
- The development of a constitution that facilitates Jewish leadership, fosters secular-religious harmony, secures civil and religious liberty, and promotes Jewish national pride and purpose.

Lechem

Party Leader: Yisrael Tvito

Campaign Slogans: n/a

Official Website: n/a

Key Points in Platform:

- Social justice party founded by social activist Vikki Knafo who gained notoriety by walking from her home in Mitzpe Rimon to Jerusalem where she led a protest against the budgetary cuts enacted by then Finance minister Bibi Netanyahu.

Leeder

Party Leader: Alexander Radko

Campaign Slogans: TBA

Official Web Site: None

Key Points In Platform:

- Party advocating on behalf of the Russian immigrant community.

Lev

Party Leader: Ovadia Fatchov

Campaign Slogans: n/a

Official Website: n/a

Key Points in Platform:

- Immigrant rights party helping olim absorb in Israel

National Arab Party

Party Leader: Muhamad Kanan

Campaign Slogans: n/a

Official Website: n/a

Key Points in Platform:

- Promoting the rights of Arab-Israelis

New Zionism

Party Leader: Yaakov Kfir

Campaign Slogans: n/a

Official Website: n/a

Key Points in Platform:

- Advocating a socio-economic agenda



One Future

Party Leader: Avraham Negusa

Campaign Slogans: n/a

Official Website: <http://atidechad.org/>

Key Points in Platform:

- Promotes the rights of Ethiopian olim

Strength to the Poor

Party Leader: Felix Angel

Campaign Slogans: n/a

Official Website: n/a

Key Points in Platform:

- Social justice for Israel's poor



Party Leader: Uzi Dayan

Campaign Slogans: A new agenda for Israel

Official Website: www.Tafnit.org

Key Points in Platform:

- New Centrist party led by former Deputy Chief of General Staff
- Promote a three-year plan of complete disengagement from the Palestinians with the completion of the security fence, withdrawal to a strategic and defensible border with major settlement blocks and the Jordan Valley, areas around Ben Gurion airport and Kiryat Arba area around Hevron to be included as part of Israel.
- Improving Jewish and Democratic education.
- Formalizing the relationship between religion and state.

Tzedek Lakol (formerly: Men's Rights in the Family Party)

Party Leader: Yaakov Shlusser

Campaign Slogans: n/a

Official Website: n/a

Key Points in Platform:

- Party formed to protect the rights of men in issues of equal parental rights.



Party Leader: Moshe Green

Campaign Slogans: n/a

Official Website: n/a

Key Points in Platform:

- Secular Right wing party founded by former IDF Chief of Staff Rafael Eitan, strongly opposed to any territorial withdrawals.