

# Israeli Democracy

Israel is a representative democracy with a parliamentary legislature, independent judiciary and extensive political and civil rights.

Every Israeli citizen who is at least 18 years old has the right to vote. This includes more than 1 million Israeli Arabs, 80% of whom are Muslim. The right to vote is an extension of Israel's Declaration of Independence, which called for the establishment of a Jewish state with equal social and political rights, regardless of religion, race or sex.

The Knesset is the legislative branch of the Israeli government. The 120 seats in the Knesset are elected through a system of proportional representation. The most recent Knesset, the 17th Knesset, included 18 parties. The 17th Knesset had 12 Arab members and 18 female members.

The powers of the Knesset include passing and enacting laws through a simple majority, electing the prime minister (generally the head of the party that receives the most votes in a Knesset election), and supervising the work of the government.

Sources: [israelvotes.com](http://israelvotes.com), [mfa.gov.il](http://mfa.gov.il), [wikipedia.com](http://wikipedia.com)



## Political Spectrum

