



## **Israel's Do-over Election: A Guide to All the Parties**

Israeli politics has been reshaped by new alliances after the entire political firmament learned a harsh lesson from the April election just five months earlier: Unity among ideological allies is crucial. Smaller parties flying solo learned the hard way that independence meant risk falling below the electoral threshold and not making it into the Knesset. By doing so, they not only hurt themselves but mortally wound their entire political camp by “wasting” votes that could help them build a bloc large enough to construct a government.

With only nine parties seemingly in a position to cross the electoral threshold, the next Knesset is set to feature the fewest number of parties in Israel's history. Here are the main contenders:

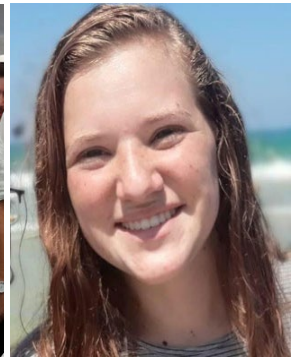
- **Likud**: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu - fighting a second re-election campaign under the shadow of pending corruption indictments, moved early to reinforce Likud by merging it with Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon's party giving himself one less party to wrestle with in governing coalition negotiations. Later in the race, he convinced Moshe Feiglin, leader of the far-right Zehut party, to pull out of the elections in order to give larger right-wing parties the precious votes he was taking. In exchange, Feiglin was promised a ministry in a future Likud-led government.
- **Kahol Lavan**: The largest of the multi-party players in the race, Kahol Lavan has continued with its four man alliance formed ahead of the April election. This “brotherhood” of centrist parties features Yair Lapid's Yesh Atid and new parties headed by two former IDF chiefs of staff — Benny Gantz and Moshe Ya'alon, who previously served as defense minister under Netanyahu. Many predicted that the three-way marriage wouldn't last past the April election, but the parties are still together.
- **Yamina**: renamed mid-campaign from the “United Right” slate is essentially a restoration of the alliance Ayelet Shaked helped dismantle. After a relatively weak showing in April elections, the religious parties they left behind — Habayit Hayehudi and Bezalel Smotrich's National Union, agreed, as did Bennett, to fall in line behind Shaked.
- **The joint list**: After a split in the former elections - the four ideologically disparate parties have decided to unite once more to re-energize their community. The slate's leader, Ayman Odeh, has expressed hope that the move will help.
- **Yisrael Beiteinu**: Avigdor Lieberman played his political cards cleverly when he refused to join Netanyahu's coalition after April's election, thus triggering the September ballot. Once a hard-right sectoral party for immigrants from the former Soviet Union, Lieberman has made his central campaign promise the formation of a government that will not include the ultra-Orthodox - presumably with Likud and Kahol Lavan.
- **United Torah Judaism**: The Ashkenazi, ultra-Orthodox alliance comprised of Agudat Yisrael and Degel Hatorah, hopes to recreate its strong showing in the April election - or perhaps surpass it.
- **Shas**: Like its Ashkenazi counterpart, the Mizrahi ultra-Orthodox party is confident that things can only improve for them in the do-over election — though some polls suggest otherwise.
- **Labor-Gesher**: In the first Israeli election of 2019 held in April, Labor was hobbled by the leadership of problematic outsider Avi Gabbay. He has since been replaced by former party head Amir Peretz, but there's a new problem. Instead of succumbing to pressure to join forces with the leftist Meretz Party, Peretz decided to appeal to the center-right by teaming up with Orli Levi-Abekasis' Gesher party. One popular member of Labor, Stav Shaffir, was discontent enough to jump ship, joining Meretz and Barak in the new Democratic Union.
- **Democratic Union**: Among the wave of alliances in Israeli politics, this new electoral pact has been perhaps the oddest. It was born after former Prime Minister Ehud Barak thundered back onto the political scene in May, burning with desire to unite the nation's center-left and leftist parties into one. And although he didn't declare as much, he implied that he'd like to see himself leading the charge.

## Israeli teen killed, father and brother wounded in West Bank terror attack

A 17-year-old Israeli girl was killed and her brother and father wounded in a terror attack near the settlement of Dolev in the West Bank on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Rina Shnerb from Lod was killed, her 19-year-old brother Dvir was seriously wounded and her 46-year-old rabbi father, Eitan, was lightly hurt in the blast caused by an improvised explosive device (IED) while visiting a spring northwest of the Palestinian city of Ramallah.

Rina's sister, Tamar Levanoni, paid tribute to her sister, whom she said had left a void in the heart of the nation. "My dearest Rina, We were granted you for almost 17 years. We were granted the best of you, your sensitivity, to see how you constantly strove to advance, to learn and understand"



## Israeli judoka Sagi Muki wins gold at World Championships

TOKYO - Israeli judoka Sagi Muki, who competes in the less than 81kg weight category, bested his Belgian opponent Matthias Casse in the final to win the gold medal at the Judo World Championship on Wednesday. The 27-year-old is the first Israeli male to win the prestigious title. This is his first world title after having won gold twice at the European Championships in 2015 and 2018. Muki faced six opponents on his journey to the gold medal and showed complete dominance after beating most of them by Ippon.

His Egyptian quarter-final opponent Mohammed Abdelaal refused to shake his hand after having lost their match.

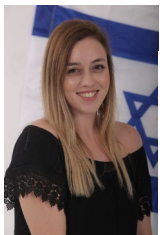
After the competition, the new world champion told reporters in Tokyo that he never lost faith he could win, but conceded that his semi-final bout "was a very hard fight". "I came close to losing but I gave it everything and I never stopped believing."

## Banana Cake (Recipe in honor of Oren Noach z"l – Taste of Memories program)

### You will need –

- 3 cups of Sugar
- 4 Cups of Flour
- 1 tsp Baking powder
- 1 Spoon Baking soda
- Pinch of salt
- 6-8 Bananas
- 1 cup Canola Oil
- 4 eggs
- ½ cup of orange juice
- 1 tsp of Vanilla extract

1. Heat the oven to 360 degrees
2. In a small ball, crush the bananas into a mash.
3. Mix the eggs and the sugar for few seconds and add all the other ingredients
4. Add the bananas to the mixture
5. Oil the oven pan and put the mixture
6. Put the cake in the oven for 35 minutes



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