

SNAPSHOT
OCTOBER 2026

How Israel Forms a Government: Coalition Scenarios and the Timeline Ahead

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Complexities of Knesset Coalition Formation

The formation of a potential Knesset governing coalition hinges on many factors, including election outcomes, party stances, and negotiations. Although seats will be allocated by Nov. 4, forming a coalition could take as long as nearly seven months; if a coalition is not formed, new elections will be held.

Possible Coalitions

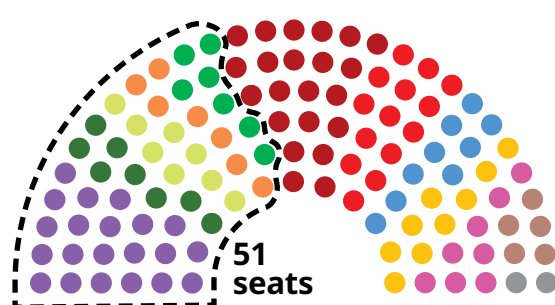
Coalition formation depends not only on parties joining ranks, but also compromising on core issues with rivals. Parties barter by softening their campaign policy promises and offering ministerial appointments that oversee their enactment.

Parties Seats according to results of Oct. 23 opinion poll.

■ Yashar! (22 seats)	■ Joint List (9)	■ RZP-Zehut (7)
■ Likud (21)	■ Otzma Yehudit (8)	■ UTJ (7)
■ Together (14)	■ Shas (8)	■ Ra'am (5)
■ The Democrats (9)	■ Yisrael Beiteinu (8)	■ Unallocated (2)

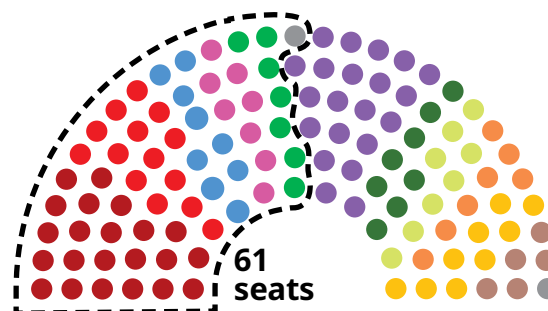
Netanyahu-led conservative government

With current red-line issues among parties, this government has no obvious 61-seat route to maintain power.



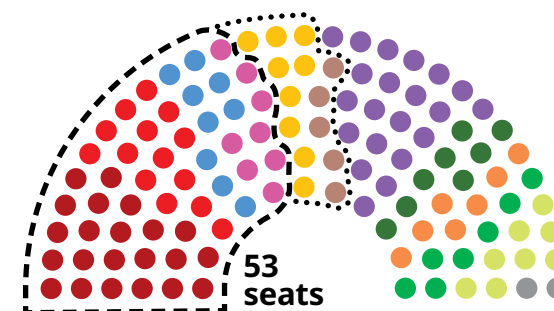
Eisenkot/Bennett form a broad Zionist coalition

A 61-seat majority is possible if The Democrats accept RZP-Zehut and at least one unallocated seat goes to a party in the prospective coalition.



Eisenkot-led minority government

A winning coalition can be formed with fewer than 61 seats if it has more votes for it than against it. For this to happen, Ra'am and the Joint List would not join the coalition but would vote for it or abstain, and Yisrael Beiteinu would join. Yisrael Beiteinu disavowed joining a minority government on the grounds of Arab reliance, but it reversed course on a similar policy red line in 2021.

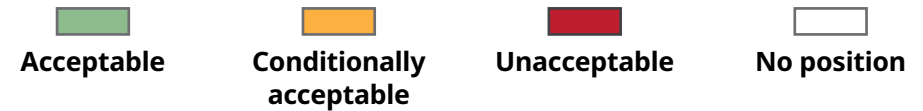


Deadlocked Knesset outcome

Given the parties' current policy red lines and projected polling, the Knesset could be deadlocked. If Yisrael Beiteinu does not waver on joining a minority coalition, or if RZP-Zehut remains untenable to The Democrats, a governing coalition is unlikely to form. If the newly elected Knesset fails to form a governing coalition, it will go through two to three rounds of coalition-formation attempts before being forced into another election — all under the continued rule of a Netanyahu caretaker government.

Coalition Formation Positions

Party platforms guide coalition formation — e.g., after the Oct. 27, 2026, election, anti-Netanyahu parties are likely to join ranks, while a Haredi party is unlikely to join with any party that is pro-Haredi draft. The policies and principles laid out below are the building blocks and brakes of the future governing coalition.



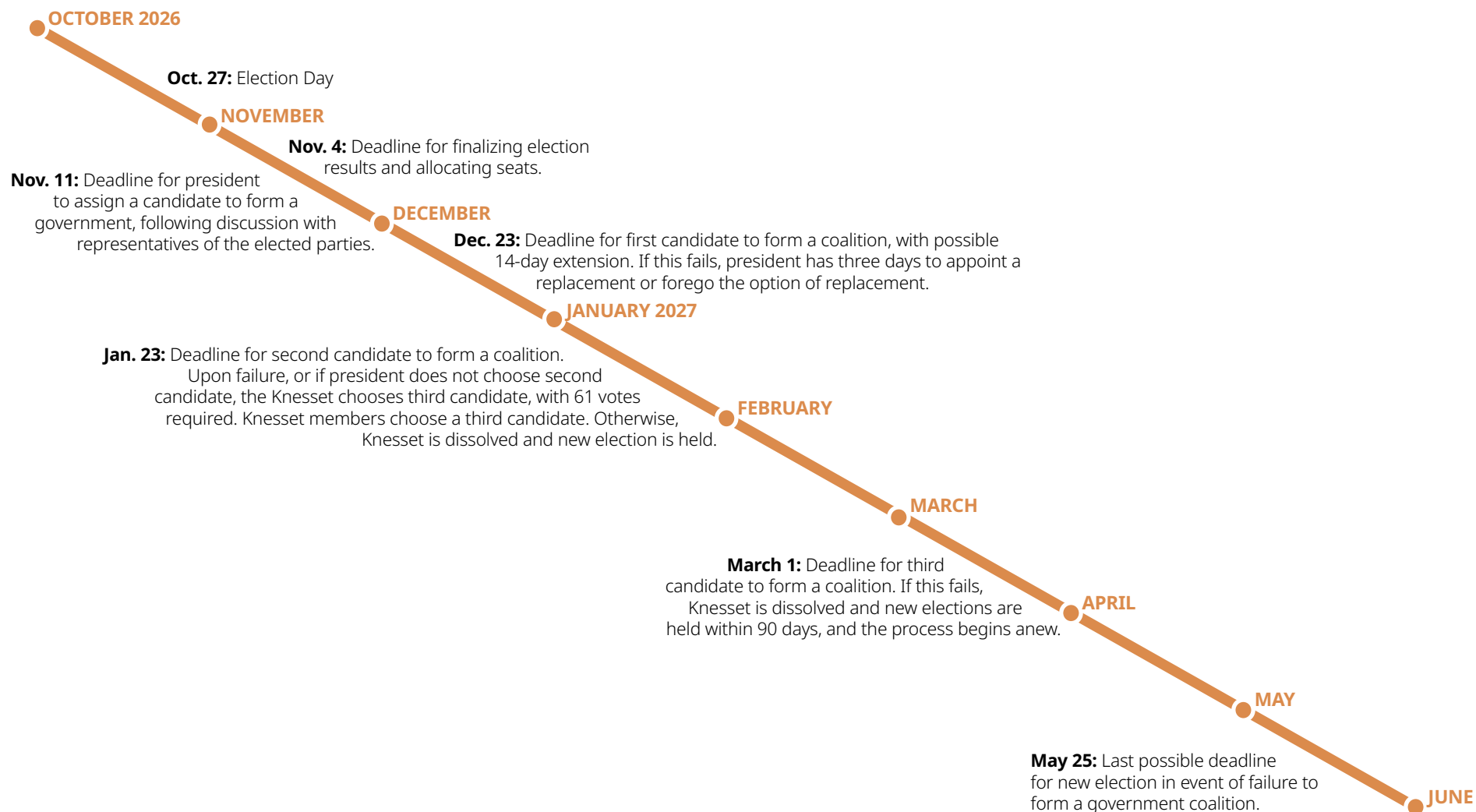
	Netanyahu leadership	Haredi parties	Arab parties	Ben-Gvir involvement	Smotrich involvement
GOVERNMENT					
Likud	Acceptable	Acceptable	Unacceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable
Otzma Yehudit	Acceptable	Acceptable	Unacceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable
RZP-Zehut	Acceptable	Acceptable	Unacceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable
Shas	Acceptable	Acceptable	Unacceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable
UTJ	Acceptable	Acceptable	Unacceptable	Conditionally acceptable	Conditionally acceptable
OPPOSITION					
The Democrats	Unacceptable	Unacceptable	Acceptable	Unacceptable	Unacceptable
Joint List	Unacceptable	Unacceptable	Acceptable	Unacceptable	Unacceptable
Together	Unacceptable	Unacceptable	Unacceptable	Unacceptable	Conditionally acceptable
Yashar!	Unacceptable	Unacceptable	Conditionally acceptable	Unacceptable	Conditionally acceptable
Yisrael Beiteinu	Unacceptable	Unacceptable	Unacceptable	No position	No position
Ra'am	Unacceptable	Conditionally acceptable	Acceptable	Unacceptable	Unacceptable
Reservists-NEP*	Acceptable	Unacceptable	Unacceptable	Conditionally acceptable	Conditionally acceptable
Amcha Yisrael*	Acceptable	Conditionally acceptable	Conditionally acceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable

* The Amcha Yisrael party and Reservist-NEP party are projected to come close to but fall short of the 3.25% threshold for number of votes necessary to be allocated Knesset seats.

Timeline of Coalition Formation Process

Although certifying Israel's election takes only around eight days, government formation can be an incredibly lengthy and complex process. Based on the election results, the president assigns candidates to build a governing coalition that will produce a Knesset majority (at least 61 seats). If each successive attempt fails, the coalition formation process can extend for as long as nine months before a new election is triggered.

During this period, the outgoing government remains in power as caretaker, retaining executive authority, potentially keeping Netanyahu in power long after the election even if his coalition loses its majority. What is more, a failure to form a government from this election starts the process over.





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