

## Likud



### 1. Benjamin Netanyahu

Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's current Prime Minister, is the only Prime Minister in Israeli history to win a fourth term for the position.

Prior to entering politics, he served in the elite Sayeret Maktal unit of the IDF. He worked in the Israeli Embassy in Washington D.C. from 1982-1984, which led to him becoming the Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations from 1984-1988.

In 1988, Netanyahu was elected a member of the Knesset by the Likud Party, becoming the Party's leader in 1993. In 1996, in Israel's first direct election for Prime Minister, Netanyahu defeated Shimon Peres. Plagued by a series of scandals involving himself and some of his ministers, he was forced to call for new elections in 1999 where he was soundly defeated by Ehud Barak. After leaving politics, he returned to the Knesset in 2002, becoming Minister of Foreign Affairs and then Minister of Finance under Ariel Sharon. He resigned from the government over Israel's unilateral 2005 disengagement from Gaza.

He became Prime Minister again in 2009.



### 2. Yuli Edelstein

Yuli Edelstein was born in Chernivtsi (in Ukraine, former USSR) in 1958. In 1979, as a fourth year student at the Institute for Foreign Languages in Moscow, he filed an application to immigrate to Israel, but the application was denied. As a 'refusenik', Edelstein worked in Zionist circles in Moscow, learning Hebrew in the underground. In 1984, he was arrested by the KGB on false charges of drug possession and sentenced by the court to three years in a Soviet forced labor camp. When he was released in 1987, he immigrated to Israel with his family.

Initially a member of the National Religious Party, Edelstein founded the Yisrael Ba'Aliyah party together with fellow Soviet dissident Natan Sharansky. He was elected to the Knesset in 1996, and was appointed Minister of Immigrant Absorption in Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud-led government. Re-elected in 1999, Edelstein was appointed Deputy Immigrant Absorption Minister by Ariel Sharon in 2001. Between 1999 and 2006, he served as chair of the Golan Lobby, in which he acted to thwart plans to transfer the Golan Heights to Syria.

In the 17th Knesset, from March 2007, Edelstein served as Deputy Speaker of the Knesset. Following the 2013 elections, he became Speaker of the Knesset.



### 5. Moshe Kahlon

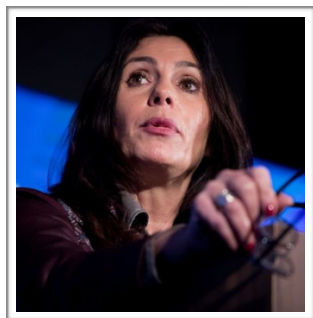
Born in 1960, Moshe Kahlon earned degrees in law and political science. His political career began with activities in local politics in and around Haifa in the 1980s.

Kahlon was first elected to the Knesset in 2003 as a member of the Likud Party. In 2009, he was appointed Minister of Communications by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. As Minister of Communications, he led the successful reform of Israel's cell phone industry, opening it up to more competition and ultimately lowering prices on cell phone plans by nearly 90 percent.

After taking a leave from politics in 2013, he announced in 2015 the creation of a new political party, Kulanu. Kulanu won ten seats in the 2015 election and joined the governing coalition with

Kahlon serving as Minister of Finance. In the April 2019 election, the party won only 4 seats. The decline led to Kulanu merging into Likud in the lead up to September's election.

## Likud



### 7. Miri Regev

Regev, 54, was born in Kiryat Gat to Sephardi Jewish immigrants. After a long military career spanning 25 years, she holds the rank Brigadier General, Reserves. Regev served in a variety of professional and command roles including Chief Military Censor for the press and media (2004-05) and IDF Spokesperson (2005-07), during the disengagement from Gaza in 2005 and the 2006 Lebanon War.

In November 2008, Regev joined the Likud party, saying that she had long been a supporter of the party. She won 27th place on the party's list for the 2009 Knesset elections, just high enough to become an MK, as Likud won 27 seats. After moving to 21st on the Likud-Yisrael Beiteinu list in 2013, she was catapulted to 5th on Likud's list for the 2015 elections. After Likud's victory in 2015,

Regev was appointed by Prime Minister Netanyahu to the position of Minister of Culture and Sport. Regev is seen as one of the more provocative MKs, having introduced a bill to annex the Jordan Valley, a move that would all but foreclose the prospect of a two-state solution. As Minister of Culture and Sport, Regev has advocated for greater recognition and state support of Mizrahi culture while also arguing that state-funded artists or organizations must show "loyalty" to the Israeli state.



### 9. Yoav Gallant

Yoav Gallant, 60, was born Jaffa. A member and mentor in the Scouts as a youth, Galant went on to have an illustrious Navy career as part of the elite Shayetet 13 naval commando unit. Between 2005 and 2010, he served as commander of the Southern Command, where he oversaw the 2008-9 Operation Cast Lead in Gaza.

In January 2015 Galant joined the new Kulanu party. Following his election to the Knesset, he was appointed Minister of Construction. In late 2018, after months of speculation that Galant was going to switch party affiliation to Likud, he was kicked out of Kulanu by the party's leader Moshe Kahlon. Shortly after joining Likud in 2019, Galant made statements that indicated that he

supports West Bank annexation saying that "Israel must apply sovereignty to Area C of the West Bank." He also said that "We will work to apply sovereignty in all of Judea and Samaria and to strengthen the settlements... Settlements are the new Zionism of the 21st Century."



### 10. Nir Barkat

Nir Barkat has a deep connection to the city of Jerusalem, where he was born and raised, where he went to college (at Hebrew University), and where he served as Mayor for 10 years (2008-2018). He served in the 35th Paratroopers Brigade of the IDF for six years (1977-1983) and reached the rank of Major.

Barkat's official entry into politics began in 2003, when he founded the Yerushalayim Tatzli'ah ("Jerusalem Will Succeed") party and ran in the Jerusalem mayoral race, where he lost to Uri Lupoliansky. After this, Barkat served as head of the opposition on the city council until his election as mayor in 2008. In 2013, he ran for a second term as mayor, during which he was endorsed by

the Labor Party, and also by a range of prominent Likud activists. In 2015, he joined Likud. In February 2015, Barkat intervened after seeing a Palestinian man trying to stab a Jewish person. Barkat subdued the attacker, with his security detail coming in immediately afterward.

## Likud



### 19. Tzipi Hotovely

Tzipi Hotovely, 40, was born and raised in Rehovot. Coming from a Modern Orthodox household, Hotovely attended a Bnei Akiva (preeminent religious Zionist youth movement) girls high school in Tel Aviv and served two years of Sherut Leumi, an alternative form of national service to military service available to religious women, as a Jewish Agency representative in Atlanta.

After college and graduate studies, she went on to participate in political punditry, writing op-eds in *Maariv* and appearing as a panelist on multiple TV networks before getting elected to the Knesset as member of Likud in 2009. In March 2013 she was appointed Deputy Minister of Transportation, and after the 2015 elections, she was appointed Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Throughout her time in the Knesset, she has often been referred to as the "ideological voice of the Likud." In a 2015 speech Hotovely said that "This land is ours. All of it is ours." She has advocated for expansion of West Bank settlements, saying "We expect the international community to recognize Israel's right to build homes for Jews in their homeland, everywhere." In October 2015, amidst increased tensions on the Temple Mount, Hotovely said her "dream is to see the Israeli flag flying over the Temple Mount." She believes Israel needs to annex the West Bank and even grant the Palestinians living there partial citizenship; "I'm in favor of giving them the right to vote," she has said in the past.



### 21. Amir Ohana

Ohana, 43, was born in Beersheva to immigrant parents from Morocco. After serving in the IDF, Ohana was a Shin Bet officer for six years. A criminal lawyer by profession, Ohana became leader of Likud's LGBTQ+ caucus and was added to Likud's list for 2015 elections in the 32nd spot. Defending his position as a gay man in a right-wing party, he told the *New York Times* in June 2019, "Being attracted to men doesn't mean you have to believe in creating a Palestinian state."

Although he did not get elected in 2015, he became a member of Knesset later that year following the resignation of Likud member Silvan Shalom. He moved quickly up the party's ranks and was a significant contributor to the drafting and passage of the Basic Law: Israel the Nation State of the

Jewish People. He is currently serving as Justice Minister after being appointed on June 5, 2019, becoming Israel's first openly gay cabinet member.

## Kahol V'Levan (Blue and White)

### 1. Benny Gantz



Benny Gantz was born in 1959 in a village in Israel's south. The son of a Holocaust survivor, Gantz began his IDF career in the Paratroopers unit in 1977.

Gantz quickly rose through the ranks of the IDF and became a commander for many of the army's most specialized units. In 2011, Gantz was unanimously approved by the Knesset to become the Chief of General Staff, the commander of the entire IDF.

As Chief of Staff, Gantz oversaw the release of captured Israeli soldier Glad Shalit, appointed Orna Barbivai (number 10 on the Blue and White List) as the country's first female Major General, and led both Operation Pillar of Defense in 2012 and Operation Protective Edge in 2014 in response to frequent rocket attacks on Israel from Gaza.

## Kahol V'Levan (Blue and White)



### 2. Yair Lapid

Yair Lapid was born in 1963 in Tel-Aviv. His father Tommy Lapid was a journalist and leader of the Shinnui, a center-left party in the Knesset.

Like his father, Lapid was a journalist and television personality who entered politics. In 2012, he founded the Yesh Atid Party with an agenda focusing on social and economic issues that appealed to younger voters. The party won a surprising 19 seats in the 2013 election.

From 2013-2014, Lapid was Minister of Finance before being fired from the government by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over policy disagreements.



### 3. Moshe "Bogie" Ya'alon

Born in Kiryat Haim, a small town near Haifa, Ya'alon was the son of Jewish fighters: his father a Haganah member, while his mother was a partisan fighter against Nazis. Ya'alon served in the famous 55th Paratroopers Brigade during the October 1973 Yom Kippur War, which became the first IDF unit to cross the Suez Canal into Egypt. After serving in the elite Sayeret Matkal unit between 1979-1982, Ya'alon rose to become deputy commander of the IDF Paratrooper Brigade. Over the next two decades, he was appointed to various commander positions within the IDF, finishing his career as the 17th IDF Chief of Staff from July 2002 until June 2005. In February 2009, Ya'alon was elected to the 18th Knesset on the Likud list, and became the Defense Minister in March 2013. As Defense Minister, he designated Lehava, a group which promotes the ideology of the late Meir

Kahane, as a terrorist group. A self-identified "hawk," in matters related to Israel's security, domestically, he has promised to help promote LGBTQ+ rights in Israel, and in particular said he will support the establishment of civil marriage laws in Israel.



### 4. Gabi Ashkenazi

A Mizrahi Jew born in 1954 in a moshav near Petach Tikva, Gabi Ashkenazi's father was a Bulgarian Holocaust survivor while his mother was an immigrant from Syria. Ashkenazi began his military service in the Golani Infantry Brigade in 1972, becoming its commander in 1987. Ashkenazi served in the Sinai in the October 1973 Yom Kippur War and was a platoon leader in the operation to rescue kidnapped Israeli hostages in Uganda in July 1976. As Head of the Israeli Northern Command, he oversaw the 2000 withdrawal from Lebanon, a political decision he later criticized.

When Israel was building the West Bank Barrier due to the violence from the Second Intifada, Ashkenazi advocated building the barrier as close to the Green Line as possible, a position which

would minimize the effects of the barrier on Palestinians. Ashkenazi has also expressed interest in making sure to restrain aggressive acts against the Palestinians and that he was afraid that the IDF would lose its humanity. He was still undecided about getting involved in politics as recently as January 2019, and was courted by the leaders of Yesh Atid, Labor, Hatnua, and Hosen L'Yisrael (Gantz's party).



### 7. Miki Haimovich

The highest listed woman in Kahol V'Levan at 7th, Haimovich worked as an Israeli TV anchor from the mid 1980's until 2011. She has previously worked on a non-partisan campaign to encourage better voter participation in the 2013 Knesset elections. Additionally, she has spent years promoting a greener and more sustainable environment and she has led campaigns such as "Meatless Mondays" and has played a part in making documentaries on healthy living.



## Kahol V'Levan (Blue and White)



### 12. Chili Tropper

Chili Tropper's parents made Aliyah from the United States in 1968. Tropper has dabbled in Israeli politics before, when in the 2013 Knesset elections, he was 23rd on Labor's list. A religious Jew, Tropper was the principal of a high school in Ramle for drop-outs being given another chance. He is one of the founders and chairmen of the "Good Neighbor" organization, which distributes food baskets to needy families and helps with the establishment of learning centers for underprivileged children. He is also one of the founders of an organization which sought to promote social justice through connection with the Jewish tradition. Tropper's political involvement included advising Labor's Shelly Yacimovich's previous election campaigns and developing her socioeconomic agenda. With Kahol V'Levan, Tropper has been tapped to be the head of a transition team for the party and

will prepare for the possibility that Gantz will be tasked with forming the next government.



### 24. Pnina Tamano-Shato

Born in Ethiopia, Pnina Tamano-Shata was one of the 8,000 Ethiopian Jews who were evacuated to Israel during Operation Moses in 1984 when she was three years old. Her interest in politics, and especially in defending the right of Israel's Ethiopian immigrant community, began when she became president of the Ethiopian Israeli Student Union in 2004. After earning her law degree, she remained at the forefront of organizing and leading demonstrations in protest of discrimination against Ethiopian Israelis.

From 2007 to 2012 she was a news reporter for Israeli Channel One. In 2013, she joined another former TV personality, Yair Lapid, to be a part of his new Yesh Atid party. Tamano-Shata was elected as a Knesset Member in 2013, becoming the first Israeli Ethiopian woman to see in the Knesset.

## Yamina (Right)



### 1. Ayelet Shaked

Ayelet Shaked, 42, born and raised in Tel Aviv, was in the Bayit Hayehudi (Jewish Home) party from 2013-2018. She is now the co-leader of the Hayamin Hehadash (New Right) party, and is second on the list. She was a guide and group leader in the Tzofim - the Israeli Scouts youth Movement and served in the IDF as an infantry instructor in the Golani Brigade, serving in the 12th Barak (Lightning) battalion and Sayaret Golani. She holds a B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from Tel-Aviv University. Prior to being elected to the Knesset, she worked as marketing director for Texas Instruments. Shaked is married to a combat pilot and is the mother of two.

From 2006 to 2008, she was the director of the office of Benjamin Netanyahu, when the Likud was in the opposition. In January 2012 Shaked was elected to serve as a member of the Likud's Central Committee; however, in June 2012 she resigned and joined the Jewish Home. In November 2012, she was placed in the 5th spot on the Bayit Hayehudi "Jewish Home" list for the 2013 elections. With the list winning 12 seats, Shaked became the only secular "Jewish Home" MK. In 2015, she was 3rd on the (Jewish Home) list and was appointed Minister of Justice.

## Yamina (Right)

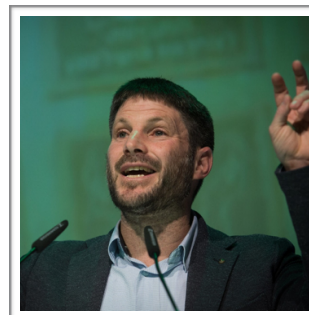


### 2. Rafi Peretz

Rafi Peretz was born in 1956 in Jerusalem. Following his yeshiva studies, Peretz became a helicopter pilot in the Israeli Air Force achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

A religious Zionist, Peretz established a pre-military Torah academy in 1993 in the Gush Katif area of Gaza. The program provides young men with both Torah learning as well as preparing them for life in the IDF. Peretz himself lived in Gaza until the 2005 Disengagement Plan forced the relocation of both his home and the yeshiva. Despite opposing the Disengagement Plan, he gained national attention during that moment for embracing the soldiers who came to evict his community believing in the importance of unity in the IDF.

In 2010, he was appointed as the Chief Rabbi of the IDF and elevated to the rank of Brigadier General. He was appointed the leader of Habayit Hayehudi faction in February 2019.



### 3. Bezalel Smotrich

Bezalel Smotrich, 39, was born in Haspin, in the Golan Heights, and grew up in the Beit El settlement in the West Bank. He is the Chairman of the National Union faction. His father was an Orthodox rabbi, and he received a thorough religious, Zionist education, attending the noteworthy Mercaz HaRav yeshiva. Smotrich completed his military service as assistant to head of the Central Theater in the General Staff Operations Division. He holds an LLB and is a licensed attorney. He also studied public and international law for an LLM at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

He has a checkered past, as he was arrested by the Shin Bet in 2005, suspected of organizing violent protests against the 2005 Gaza disengagement – but he was never charged. As a young activist, he declared himself a “proud homophobe” and organized the 2006 anti-gay “Beast Parade,” a march held in Jerusalem in protest of a gay pride parade in the city.

Since being in the Knesset, he has made headlines for encouraging draft-dodging in protest of the IDF’s “radical feminist” agenda, for comparing the evacuation of an illegal settlement outpost to a “brutal rape,” and for claiming that “illiterate” Arabs are only granted university admission thanks to affirmative action. In the Knesset he has also caught people’s attentions by saying there is “no such thing as Jewish terrorism”, supporting segregation between Jewish and Arab women in hospital maternity wards, and accusing the LGBTQ+ community of controlling the media.



### 4. Naftali Bennett

Naftali Bennett, born in Haifa in 1972, was the leader of the Jewish Home Party from 2012-2018. He is the youngest of three sons born to American Jewish immigrants who moved to Israel from California in 1967, a month after the June 1967 Six-Day War. During his childhood, Bennett was intimately involved in the religious Zionist youth group B’nei Akiva.

In 2005 Bennett was appointed the chief of staff of then-Opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu. In this capacity, he helped formulate Netanyahu’s education reform plan. Bennett also ran Netanyahu’s campaign ahead of the primary elections for the leadership of Likud, which Netanyahu won. In 2009, Bennett was appointed director general of the Yesha Council, an umbrella organization of municipal

councils of Jewish settlements in the West Bank, and led the fight to cancel the construction freeze in Judea and Samaria and to reinforce the settlement enterprise.

He has served as the Minister of Education since 2015, and the Minister of Diaspora Affairs since 2013.

Bennett is a former tech CEO who served in the IDF’s Sayeret Matkal special operations unit. He is opposed to a two-state solution with the Palestinians and advocates for applying Israeli sovereignty to those areas of the West Bank currently under Israeli control.

## Democratic Union



### 1. Nitzan Horowitz

The Democratic Union is a merger of the left-wing Meretz party, the new Democratic Israel party of former Prime Minister Ehud Barak, the Green party, and Knesset Member Stav Shaffir who left the Labor Party to be number two on this list.

The merged slate is headed by newly elected Meretz leader Nitzan Horowitz. Horowitz was elected party leader in late June, becoming the first openly gay leader of an Israeli political party.

Nitzan Horowitz was born in Rishon LeZion in 1965, but has lived in Tel-Aviv for over thirty years. A Member of Knesset for Meretz between 2009 - 2015, Horowitz also unsuccessfully ran for mayor of Tel-Aviv in 2013. In the Knesset, he focussed mainly on social issues, with a particular interest in addressing the challenges Israel faced over the influx of foreign asylum seekers. Of his newly formed party, Horowitz said it will defend Israel from the “racism, corruption, occupation and religious coercion” by the current government

Horowitz is a journalist by profession, and has worked as a correspondent for a number of Israel print and television outlets including channel 10 and Haaretz.



### 2. Stav Shaffir

Stav Shaffir was born in Netanya in 1985. When first elected to the Knesset in 2013, she became the youngest female Knesset member in Israel's history. Shaffir, along with Labor MK Itzik Shmuli (3rd on the Labor-Gesher list), was one of a small group of leaders of the 2011 Israeli social justice protests which saw upwards of 400,000 people on the streets (similar to the Occupy movements in the US), protesting against high housing costs, lack of public services, and income inequality. Shaffir later became the ad-hoc spokeswoman of the movement. Since joining the Knesset, she has been unafraid to speak her mind, saying that “real Zionism is taking care of the weak. Real Zionism is solidarity, not only in

battle but in everyday life.” In her keynote speech at the 2015 J Street Conference, Shaffir spoke of her vision of an Israel that above all “does not control millions of Palestinians.” Of the 2018 Nation State Basic Law, Shaffir said that it was “a shame” and those who voted for the bill are engaging in acts that are “the exact opposite of what the Zionist dream was.”



### 3. Yair Golan

Born in Rishon LeZion in 1962, this is Yair Golan’s first foray into organized politics. Golan had a decorated military career, serving from the time of his conscription in 1980 until 2018. During his military tenure, he was the commander of two high profile theaters, the Home Front Command and Northern Command. From 201-2017, Golan was the Deputy Chief of Staff of the IDF.

During a speech at the 2016 state Holocaust memorial ceremony, Golan infamously said “If there is one thing that is scary in remembering the Holocaust, it is noticing horrific processes which developed in Europe – particularly in Germany – 70, 80, and 90 years ago, and finding remnants of that here (in Israel) among us.” For these comments, he drew criticism from many, including PM Netanyahu and MK Miri Regev. In a recent interview with the *Times of Israel*, Golan “stood by those 2016 comments,” and that those comments “were the reason he had decided to go into politics.”

## Democratic Union



### 4. Tamar Zandberg

Tamar Zandberg was born in 1976 in Ramat Gan. She has been a Member of Knesset since 2013 and was elected the leader of Meretz in March 2018.

A psychologist by training, Zandberg served as a member of the Tel-Aviv city council before being elected to the Knesset. In the most recent Knesset, she served as the chairperson of the Committee on Drug and Alcohol Abuse, where she promoted the legalization of cannabis. An avid cyclist, Zandberg created a special lobby for sustainable transportation, advocating for the creation of additional bike paths and increasing efficiency in public transportation. She is also a proponent for increased

availability of public transportation on Shabbat.

Zanberg has participated in Women of the Wall demonstrations against restrictions on women's prayer at the Kotel, and has also fought for environmental protections.



### 10. Ehud Barak

Ehud Barak (77) was the 10th Prime Minister of Israel, from the time he defeated Bibi Netanyahu in 1999 until 2001, when he lost to Ariel Sharon.

Born in kibbutz Mishmar HaSharon before the state of Israel was founded, Barak would go on to have a legendary military career, serving from 1959 until 1995. Notably, he led well known IDF operations, such as: the undercover 1973 Israeli raid on Lebanon, in which he was disguised as a woman to kill members of the Palestine Liberation Organization; Barak was also instrumental in the planning of the 1976 Operation Entebbe. From 1991-1995, Barak served as the IDF Chief of Staff, where

he helped implement the first Oslo Accords and participated in the negotiations that led to the Israel-Jordan peace treaty. He (along with two other individuals) is the most decorated Israeli soldier in history.

In June 2019, Barak re-entered politics with a new party, Israel Democratic, that was quickly merged with other parties to form a larger list resulting in the Democratic Union.

After ties to accused sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein came out, Epstein responded in August 2019 saying "I would have preferred never to have made contact with him. But from the moment things became clear, that contact was immediately severed." Because of his associations with Epstein, Barak was placed tenth on the party's slate.

## Labor - Gesher



### 1. Amir Peretz

The current leader of the Labor party, Peretz, 67, made aliyah to Israel in 1956 from his hometown of Boujad, Morocco. His political career was launched in 1983 when he became the Mayor of S'derot, the southern town in which he grew up in.

In 1994, Peretz helped defeat then Prime Minister Rabin's desired candidate for the Histadrut (Israel's largest labor union) and in 1995 he became its leader. With the exception of two partial terms, he has served in the Knesset since 1988. From April 2006 to June 2007, Peretz was Israel's Defense Minister, despite a lack of military leadership. He was forced to resign due to Israel's mishandling of the Second

Lebanon War. Peretz also served as Minister of Environmental Protection.



## Labor - Gesher



### 2. Orly Levy-Abekasis

Born in 1973, Levy-Abekasis, is second on the joint Labor-Gesher list. Of Moroccan heritage, her father, David Levy who created the original Gesher party, served in numerous ministries throughout his long political career (1969-2006), including as Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Affairs Minister, and Immigrant Absorption.

Like her father's party, the revived Gesher, which was created prior to the April 2019 elections, has a distinct social agenda. Levy-Abekasis, a former media personality, was first elected to Knesset in 2009 as a member of the Yisrael Beiteinu party. Virtually all of her efforts in the Knesset have focussed on strengthening at-risk elements in Israeli society including children, the poor, and the disabled. She resigned from Yisrael Beiteinu in 2016 over the party's lack of focus on socioeconomic issues, serving as an independent Knesset Member until re-creating Gesher in 2019. After failing to cross the electoral threshold in April, she agreed to merge with Labor in the summer of 2019.

## United Torah Judaism



### 1. Yaakov Litzman

Yaakov Litzman was born in a displaced persons camp in Germany in 1948. After spending his early years in the United States, Litzman immigrated to Israel in 1966 to become the head of a Hasidic girls school in Jerusalem. As a member of the Ger Hasidic sect, Litzman became a close advisor to the sect's leader, Rebbe Alter, who encouraged him to enter politics. He was first elected to the Knesset in 1999. In the most recent government, Litzman served as the Minister of Health where he advocated for healthier food to be served in schools.



### 2. Moshe Gafni

Moshe Gafni was born in Tel-Aviv in 1952 and was first elected to the Knesset in 1988. From 1990-1992, he was Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs. During his tenure in the Knesset, Gafni has served on a number of committees, including the Finance Committee, which he chaired in the most recent Knesset. Gafni has been outspoken in his support for army deferrals for Torah scholars and has come under fire for being critical of non-Orthodox movements in the diaspora.

## **Shas**



### **1. Aryeh Deri**

Aryeh Deri was born in 1959 in Morocco and made aliyah in 1968. Among the founders of Shas, the ultra-Orthodox Sephardi party, Deri was first elected to the Knesset in 1992.

Deri served as the leader of Shas for most of the nineties. He served as Minister of the Interior and was a member of the Knesset from 1992 to 1999. In 1999, he was convicted of taking bribes and sentenced to three years in prison. Shas' official position regarding Deri's conviction was that it was part of the State's persecution of the Sephardim, and that Deri's guilty verdict reflected discrimination.

After his release from prison, Deri took some time away from politics. In 2012, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, the spiritual leader of Shas, appointed him once again to be Chairman and he was elected to the Knesset in 2013. As Minister of the Interior in the current government, Deri has been the architect of controversial policies to deport African asylum seekers from Israel.

## **Yisrael Beiteinu (Israel Our Home)**



### **1. Avigdor Lieberman**

Avigdor Lieberman was born in the Soviet Union in 1958, and made aliyah in 1978. Lieberman first became active in politics as a student at Hebrew University. In 1988, he was among the founders of the Zionist Forum for Soviet Jewry together with Natan Sharansky and others. The group, which represented several different political factions in Israel, advocated for and supported recent immigrants from the Soviet Union to Israel.

Lieberman became the Director-General of the Likud Party in 1993, working closely with Benjamin Netanyahu who had recently become the Party's leader. Following Netanyahu's election as Prime Minister in 1996, Lieberman managed his office.

In 1999, Lieberman established Yisrael Beiteinu as a right wing party representing the interests of immigrants, and was elected to the Knesset that year. He served as a cabinet minister for both Ariel Sharon and Ehud Olmert, resigning both times over disagreements on Israel's withdrawal from Gaza in 2005 and its participation in the 2007 peace summit in Annapolis.

He was appointed Defense Minister in the most recent government. His resignation in November 2018 helped set the stage for early elections. Among his nationalist positions, he has been an advocate for requiring Arab Israeli citizens to take an oath of allegiance to Israel.

## **Joint Arab List**



### **1. Ayman Odeh**

Ayman Odeh was born in Haifa in 1975 to a secular Muslim family. He is the leader of the Hadash party, a predominantly Arab Communist Party. As a teenager, he identified strongly with the struggle of the Palestinians and took part in numerous rallies and demonstrations against the government, before shifting his focus towards achieving greater rights for Israeli Arabs and advocating for a two state solution.

Odeh, a lawyer by profession, served on the Haifa city council and has held leadership positions in numerous organizations aimed at improving civic equality for Israeli Arabs. In the Knesset he has opposed the demolition of unrecognized Bedouin villages, argued for recognition of Arab villages destroyed in 1948, and promoted increasing the number of Arab citizens in the civil service.

## Joint Arab List



### 2. Mtanes Shehadeh

Mtanes Shehadeh was elected chairman of Balad in February 2019. He represents new leadership for a party that has been defined by taking positions which reject Israel's legitimacy as a Jewish state. Shihadeh is a former pollster and research fellow at the Mada al-Carmel, a Palestinian research center in Haifa. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in political science from Hebrew University.



### 3. Mansour Abbas

A dentist by profession, Mansour Abbas is the chairperson of the United Arab List. Abbas was born in 1974 in the village of Maghar in the Gallilee. He is a long serving leader of the Israeli Islamic Movement's Southern Branch, and has been Vice President since 2010. The movement split into a northern and southern branch in 1998 with the southern branch choosing to participate in Israeli politics. In the past, Abbas has called for reinforcing Arab participation in the Knesset as a means to improve equality for the country's Arab citizens.



### 3. Ahmad Tibi

Ahmad Tibi was born in 1958 in Taibe, an Arab village in the Triangle region of Israel. He is the leader of the Ta'al party, which was created in 1990 and is primarily focused on the interests of Israel's Palestinian citizens. A gynecologist by profession, he was first elected to the Knesset in 1999 as a member of the Balad Party. He is currently the longest serving Arab Knesset member. In the past, Tibi has advocated for Palestinian right of return to Israel, supported Israeli withdrawal from all the territory acquired in 1967, and opposed the recently passed Basic Law defining Israel as the nation state of the Jewish people.



### 7. Ofer Cassif

Cassif, 54, the only Jew on the Joint List, was born and raised in a household that was highly supportive of the Mapai Party, the predecessor to today's Labor Party. After military service in the IDF's Nahal brigade and airborne unit, Cassif entered the Hebrew University. During the first intifada, while in the IDF, he refused to serve in the West Bank and Gaza and was jailed four times. Prior to the April elections, the Knesset's Central Election Committee banned Cassif from running, accusing him of supporting terror and denying Israel's right to exist as a Jewish and Democratic state. The ban was overturned by Israel's Supreme Court, although Cassif ultimately was not elected..

Cassif defines himself an explicit anti-Zionist. "There are three reasons for that. To begin with, Zionism is a colonialist movement, and as a socialist, I am against colonialism. Second, as far as I am concerned, Zionism is racist in ideology and in practice. I am not referring to the definition of race theory but to what I call Jewish supremacy. The third thing is that Zionism, like other ethno-nationalistic movements, splits the working class and all weakened groups." He believes that "Zionism also sustains anti-Semitism."