Israel after 27 October: a disputed result, and the institutions that certified it

What happened after the vote, how the challenge was handled by the institutions, what is added by the war with Iran, and what is to be watched.

Israel **As of 11 November 2026** **Nevo Goor** An independent project by Nevo Goor

Updated 11 November 2026, revised for voice on 12 November. The events of 10 and 11 November were added, and source attributions in the version dated 9 November were corrected. One item, a reported pre-election plan for an operation against Iran, was removed because the source cited for it did not carry it. The revision for voice was checked against the earlier text for changes of meaning.

The election was called stolen by the losing side. The result was certified on time by the election committee and accepted by the President, and on 8 November the mandate was given to Gadi Eisenkot, who had been recommended by 67 members. On 10 November the new Knesset was sworn in, and on the same day the Attorney General was told by the police that the material of the security service does not establish suspicion of an election-financing or security offence. No court has been asked to rule on the result. On this record institutions under open pressure are found to have kept to procedure, and a crisis is not found in the words of the record itself. The author is an Israeli citizen and the sole author of this note.

SECTION 1

What happened after the vote

On 2 November the Central Elections Committee was asked by a lawyer for Likud to wait. The answer was given in writing by the chairman of the committee, Justice Noam Sohlberg: the committee "has no authority to withhold the certification of the results" (Times of Israel). Two days later the results were certified.

The count, as it is reported from the committee by the outlets, gives 53 seats to the bloc of Netanyahu, 48 to the bloc around Eisenkot and 19 to the two Arab parties (Times of Israel; ynet; Jerusalem Post). The results page of the committee could not be opened, so these seat figures rest on one underlying count carried by several outlets.

After the vote the election was said by Likud to have been "stolen" by Arab parties (Times of Israel), or in Arab communities (Jerusalem Post). On 29 October the Shin Bet, the security service of Israel, was asked by Sohlberg to examine suspected foreign influence (Times of Israel). It was stated by the police that they had no investigative or intelligence support for the stolen-election claim (Jerusalem Post, one source). In a separate case seven people were arrested by the police on suspicion of vote buying (Jerusalem Post, one source), and by 3 November six of the seven had been released by courts in Beersheba, some to house arrest; no one has been indicted (Jerusalem Post).

On 4 November the results were approved by the committee. That Likud and Shas abstained is reported by the Jerusalem Post. The certified results were accepted the same day as legally binding by President Isaac Herzog (AP; the Jerusalem Post reports that they were received by him). According to AP, no evidence of irregularities which compromised the election or affected its results was found by the committee.

Consultations followed. On 5 November it was announced by Herzog that Eisenkot had been recommended by 67 members and Netanyahu by 46 (Times of Israel; ynet), while no one was recommended by United Torah Judaism (ynet; Jerusalem Post). The choice was delayed by Herzog by three days, and "mutual vetoes between the blocs and within the blocs" were given by him as the reason (Times of Israel). On 8 November the mandate was handed to Eisenkot by Herzog at the Residence of the President (Jerusalem Post; Times of Israel), with 28 days, and up to 14 more if they are granted by the President (Jerusalem Post; ynet). On 10 November the 120 members of the 26th Knesset were sworn in, with the President present (ynet; the Jerusalem Post reports the swearing-in), and the members were urged by Herzog to spare the country another election (ynet). The same evening a vote to replace the Speaker, Amir Ohana, was demanded by at least 61 members, with Matan Kahana of Yashar as their candidate (ynet; Times of Israel; Jerusalem Post); 67 signatures are counted by ynet and 61 by the Jerusalem Post. The vote was set by Ohana for the following Tuesday, 17 November by the calendar, and it was said by him that he would act as he had promised, despite his "strong opposition" (ynet; Times of Israel).

In the chamber Ra'am and the Joint List were accused by Netanyahu of seeking the destruction of the Jewish state (Times of Israel), and the call for a national unity government was repeated by him (Times of Israel; Jerusalem Post). The speech was called "hate-filled" by Eisenkot (Times of Israel), and the talks with Likud which had been set for the next day were cancelled by him (Times of Israel; the cancellation is also reported by the Jerusalem Post and ynet). It is said by Shas that the party stays with Netanyahu, and it is said by a member of United Torah Judaism that the party will side with whoever solves the question of the military draft (Times of Israel, one source each).

The challenge has not ended. According to the lawyer for Likud, an appeal to the Jerusalem District Court is being prepared by the party, likely not before 17 November, which is given by the Times of Israel as the last day to file; 18 November had been given by the Jerusalem Post as a possible filing date. No appeal had been filed by the morning of 11 November in the pages that were read. On 10 November it was said by Itamar Ben-Gvir, whose party is not Likud, that the election "was stolen" and that a new vote is hoped for by him (Times of Israel).

SECTION 2

How the institutions handled it

In the July report Israel was read as a democracy under sustained constitutional pressure, and this election was named as the decisive variable. In the 8 October note the electoral machinery was described as working, with the courts as its final arbiter. Neither reading, and no value behind them, is changed by this note.

INSTITUTION	WHAT WAS DONE, TO 11 NOVEMBER
Central Elections Committee	The security probe was requested on 29 October; a delay of certification was refused; the results were certified on 4 November, with Likud and Shas abstaining (Jerusalem Post). It was said by the chairman that suspicions are only suspicions, and that solid evidence is needed to challenge a result (Times of Israel).
President	The certified results were accepted on 4 November; consultations were held with the parties; the mandate was given to the candidate with 67 recommendations. Condemned by him (AP): "the coarseness and racist expressions that we have heard recently".
Attorney General	A request of the Shin Bet to question leaders of Arab parties was refused. In the words of her office, the interrogation of elected officials "without evidence" is not permissible (Jerusalem Post, one source). On 8 November, at a seminar of the Justice Ministry in Eilat, it was said by her that nothing was known to her which could affect the result, even remotely (Times of Israel, French edition, one source; translated from French for this note).

INSTITUTION	WHAT WAS DONE, TO 11 NOVEMBER
Shin Bet	A probe into suspected foreign funding of Arab parties was opened. No finding has been stated by the service itself. The case was compared by its chief to 7 October and to the Yom Kippur War at a conference of the service, according to Channel 12 as carried by the Times of Israel.
Police	It was stated by the police that they had no investigative or intelligence support for the stolen-election claims (Jerusalem Post, one source), and the vote-buying arrests were made. On 10 November an assessment was sent by the police to the Attorney General that the intelligence of the Shin Bet "does not establish suspicion" of election-financing or security offences, while further material can still be examined (ynet, one source). On 6 November it was reported by ynet that officers had been ordered by the police head of investigations not to assist the Shin Bet on election matters without his approval (one source).
Courts	The vote-buying suspects were released. No court has yet been asked to rule on the result.
Knesset	Sworn in on 10 November. A vote on the Speaker was demanded by a majority; 17 November was set as the date and accepted by the Speaker (ynet; Times of Israel).

The pressure came from several directions. The chairman of the committee and the Attorney General were attacked by Likud, and her removal was demanded by Itamar Ben-Gvir (Jerusalem Post; Times of Israel on the chairman). On the other side the chief of the Shin Bet was accused by Yair Golan of turning the service into a political tool (Jerusalem Post). On 6 November it was reported by Channel 12, and carried by the Times of Israel on 7 November, that both probes are falling apart. The police assessment of 10 November now points the same way on the foreign-funding file. That assessment was sent to the Attorney General and is not a closing decision, and no reply of the Shin Bet to it was found. On the vote-buying file no new step was found.

The reading of this note. The hypothesis which the author was asked to test is a democratic crisis. A refusal of the losing side to accept the result is shown by the record, together with attacks on the referee and an intelligence probe aimed at elected Arab representatives. The referee, the President and the Attorney General are also shown keeping to procedure, on the dates which they had set. That is strain on the institutions, not their failure. The one new element is the security service inside an election dispute, and on 10 November the Attorney General was told by the police, not by the referee, that the material of the service does not hold an offence; it has not been said by the service itself.

What was left waiting on the calendar in the 8 October note is now arriving. The law which changes how judges of the Supreme Court are chosen was written to take effect when the new Knesset convenes (Globes; Jerusalem Post, as cited in the 8 October note); the Knesset convened on 10 November, and whether the law is now applied is not stated on any page that was read that day. The law which ends the binding force of the opinions of the Attorney General takes effect in January 2027 (Times of Israel; Jerusalem Post, same note). Both laws were passed by the outgoing coalition, and on 10 November bills to repeal both, with the media law, and to set up a state commission of inquiry into 7 October were submitted by Yashar and the Democrats (Times of Israel; ynet). It is noted by ynet that the bills are only at the beginning of the legislative process. Whether they will pass is not said here.

SECTION 3

What the war adds to the transition

Israel has been a party to the war with Iran since 28 February 2026, when the operation began and a special situation on the home front was declared (Israel Democracy Institute; ynet). A declared state of emergency has been in force since the founding of the state, renewed by the Knesset every year (Israel

Democracy Institute). The question is not whether Israel enters a war; a disputed transition is happening inside one.

In this window Iranian targets near the Strait of Hormuz were struck by the United States on 2 November (AP), and an air-defence device on Qeshm island on 6 or 7 November, a strike which was called minor by President Trump (Times of Israel). No Israeli strike on Iran and no Iranian strike on Israel between 30 October and the morning of 11 November was found in the pages that were read, which is not proof that none occurred. On talks the record is mixed: on 10 November positive discussions were spoken of by Qatar, while it was said by Mohsen Rezaei of Iran that a clear answer to the conditions of Iran was still awaited by Iran (Times of Israel). It was said by Trump that a renewed offensive would not be launched by the United States for now (Times of Israel), and on 11 November it was reported by ynet that the defence establishment of Israel is preparing for the possibility of another round (one source).

Two items tie the war to the election. It is reported by AP, citing regional officials, that another wave of strikes was pressed for by Netanyahu after the American midterms. And the war is now spoken of by both candidates when a government is spoken of: on 7 November it was said by Netanyahu that a national unity government would "permanently remove the Iranian nuclear threat" (ynet), and on receiving the mandate "a national emergency government" was called for by Eisenkot (Jerusalem Post). In the new Knesset on 10 November it was said by Netanyahu that Israel will face pressure to accept a nuclear Iran, and the case for unity was argued again by him (Jerusalem Post). These are statements and reports. None is a decision.

Until a new government is sworn in, the government of Netanyahu stays in office. No cabinet decision on Iran was found in this window.

SECTION 4

What to watch

DATE	WHAT WOULD BE SHOWN
17 November: the Speaker vote (ynet); also the last day for an appeal (Times of Israel)	Whether the chair is taken by the new majority, and whether the claim of Likud is taken to a court, and on what grounds
Any day: the status of the judicial selection law	Whether it now applies, and what becomes of the repeal bills
Any day: a decision of the Attorney General on the police assessment, or a reply of the Shin Bet	Whether the interference and vote-buying files are closed or stay open
6 December: end of the first 28 days of the Eisenkot mandate (a calculation for this note, from 8 November); up to 14 more if granted	Whether a government is formed, and with whom
1 January 2027: the Attorney General law takes effect (Jerusalem Post, as cited in the 8 October note)	Whether it is amended first by a new majority
Iran: talks through Qatar, and any strike	Whether escalation enters the transition

A result held, and a parliament sat down on top of it, like a house built on ground which is still settling. Whether trust in it holds is a different question, and a slower one.

SECTION 5

Method and limits

This note was researched and written by a single analyst, with AI research assistance, and it was checked claim by claim. A fact requires a primary document or two independent sources, and anything less is carried with its source named. The site of the election committee, the official gazette, the office of the President and the Knesset record could not be opened, so no page of a state body was read directly, and the seat count and the decisions of the committee come through the press. Haaretz blocks automated reading, so the pairing of Haaretz with Israel Hayom on contested items was not possible. Pages were read through a summarising tool. The collection for 10 November was not stored, so that day was rebuilt from the sources listed here. State-funded and republishing outlets are not used as support. The author is an Israeli citizen. The framework behind this piece is not externally validated and makes no predictions. This is a structured analytical opinion.

SECTION 6

Sources

The count, certification and the mandate

Times of Israel, final results and swearing-in date: https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/central-elections-committee-publishes-final-election-results-knesset-to-be-sworn-in-nov-10/

Times of Israel, Silkoff, 2 Nov 2026: https://www.timesofisrael.com/likud-seeks-delay-in-certification-of-election-results-citing-interference-probe/

Times of Israel, 1 Nov 2026, Sohlberg video statement: https://www.timesofisrael.com/alongside-zini-and-ag-election-chief-stresses-election-conducted-properly-results-wont-change/

Jerusalem Post 913780, 4 Nov 2026, committee approves results: https://www.jpost.com/israel-election-2026/article-913780

Jerusalem Post 913806, 4 Nov 2026: https://www.jpost.com/israel-election-2026/article-913806

AP via KSL, 4 Nov 2026: https://www.ksl.com/article/51643636/israels-president-accepts-certified-election-results-in-a-blow-to-netanyahus-claim-of-vote-fraud

Times of Israel, Levaton, 5 Nov 2026: https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/herzog-says-eisenkot-got-67-nods-as-pm-but-he-will-only-hand-over-mandate-on-sunday/

ynet, Ettinger, 5 Nov 2026: https://www.ynetnews.com/article/rjj1td9pfx

Jerusalem Post 914236, 8 Nov 2026, mandate ceremony: https://www.jpost.com/israel-election-2026/article-914236

Times of Israel, 8 Nov 2026, mandate ceremony: https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/watch-eisenkot-receives-mandate-to-form-next-government-in-official-ceremony

ynet, 5 Nov 2026, swearing-in and speaker: https://www.ynetnews.com/article/bjunej5agg

ynet, Ettinger and Azulay, 10 Nov 2026, Knesset sworn in: https://www.ynetnews.com/article/hkhobslrge

ynet, Azulay, 10 Nov 2026, Speaker vote set: https://www.ynetnews.com/article/skifn0ecfe

ynet, Karni and Azulay, 10 Nov 2026, repeal bills: https://www.ynetnews.com/article/hjaovnxafe

ynet, Azulay, 10 Nov 2026, talks with Likud: https://www.ynetnews.com/article/bjnjwzw0gx

Times of Israel liveblog, 10 Nov 2026: https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog-november-10-2026/

Times of Israel, Karmel, 10 Nov 2026, repeal bills: https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/eisenkot-led-bloc-submits-bills-to-establish-oct-7-state-inquiry-limit-pm-terms-repeal-judicial-overhaul/

Jerusalem Post live updates, 10 Nov 2026: https://www.jpost.com/israel-election-2026/2026-11-10/live-updates-914399

The challenge and the probes

Times of Israel, Sharon, 8 Nov 2026, Likud appeal: https://www.timesofisrael.com/likud-to-appeal-election-results-over-alleged-illegal-voter-tracking-by-arab-parties/

Jerusalem Post 913761, 4 Nov 2026, Attorney General and Shin Bet: https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/politics-and-diplomacy/article-913761

Jerusalem Post 913737, vote-buying suspects released: https://www.jpost.com/israel-election-2026/article-913737

ynet, Tamari, 6 Nov 2026, police directive: https://www.ynetnews.com/article/bjd4zgo6gx

Times of Israel, 7 Nov 2026, Channel 12 on the probes: https://www.timesofisrael.com/both-election-interference-probes-involving-arab-parties-reportedly-falling-apart/

ynet, Turgeman, 10 Nov 2026, police assessment: https://www.ynetnews.com/article/rjqix111azl

Times of Israel (French edition), Sharon, 8 Nov 2026, Attorney General: https://fr.timesofisrael.com/fraude-electorale-la-procureure-generale-ecarte-tout-impact-sur-le-scrutin/

Times of Israel, 6 Nov 2026, Channel 12 on the Shin Bet chief: https://www.timesofisrael.com/shin-bet-chief-said-to-compare-alleged-election-interference-to-oct-7-yom-kippur-war/

The war

AP via PBS, 3 Nov 2026: https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/u-s-launches-new-attacks-on-iranian-targets-days-after-netanyahu-pressed-trump-for-more-strikes

Times of Israel liveblog, 7 Nov 2026: https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog-november-07-2026/

ynet, 7 Nov 2026, Netanyahu address: https://www.ynetnews.com/article/rkcsjwpage

ynet, Ben Kimon, 11 Nov 2026, preparation for another round: https://www.ynetnews.com/article/byjvbbwcfg

Israel Democracy Institute, home front situation, 2 Mar 2026: https://en.idi.org.il/articles/63607

ynet, 1 Mar 2026, home front declaration extended: https://www.ynetnews.com/article/5pt2pictd

Earlier COGA readings

COGA note on institutional change since 7 October, 8 Oct 2026: https://governance-reads.lovable.app/reports

Israel governance diagnostic, July 2026, corrected 8 Oct: https://governance-reads.lovable.app/__l5e/assets-v1/7ac8166a-12ec-464a-bd75-3faba6fd2231/COGA-Israel-Governance-Diagnostic-Corrected.pdf

---