

# Public Trust Report<sup>1</sup>

March 2025

The Institute for Liberty and Responsibility

# **Suggested citation:**

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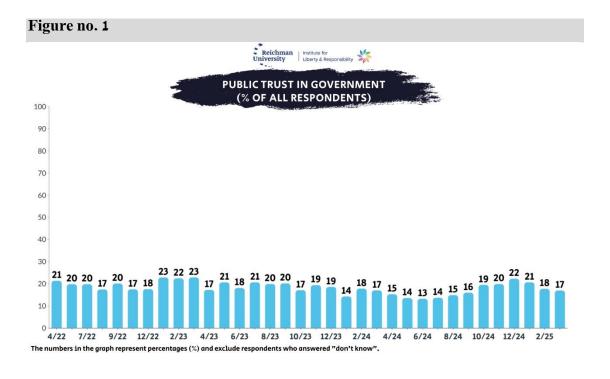
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The Institute for Liberty and Responsibility is committed to developing robust metrics for assessing Israeli democracy's performance and gauging public confidence in its institutions. Through regular surveys of demographically representative samples across all sectors of Israeli society, the Institute collects data on public trust in various government bodies and overall satisfaction with governmental performance. Since April 2022, these measurements have been conducted monthly, with results presented through several regularly updated indices that track shifting patterns of public trust over time.

#### **Public Trust in Government Institutions**

The level of public trust in Israeli government institutions continues to show a significant variation between the different authorities in March 2025. While the Supreme Court (44%) and the President (42%) enjoy the trust of almost half the public and are positioned as the most trusted institutions, the executive and legislative branches suffer from particularly low levels of trust. The government has the trust of only 17% of the public, with a downward trend in recent months, and the Knesset continues to be the institution with the lowest level of public trust - only 11%.

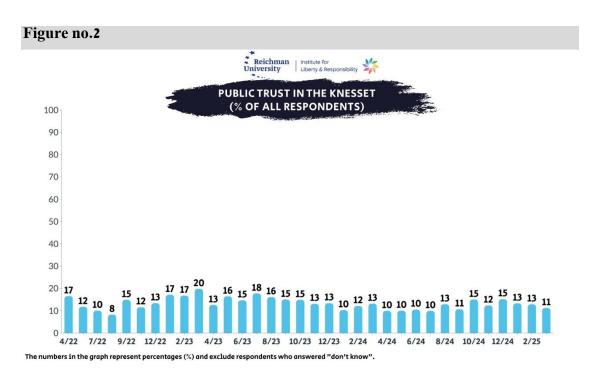
#### **Public Trust in the Government:**

The level of trust of the Israeli public in the government in March 2025 is **17**%. With a general downward trend in recent months, this figure represents a generally low level of trust. Only one in six Israelis expresses confidence in the current government.



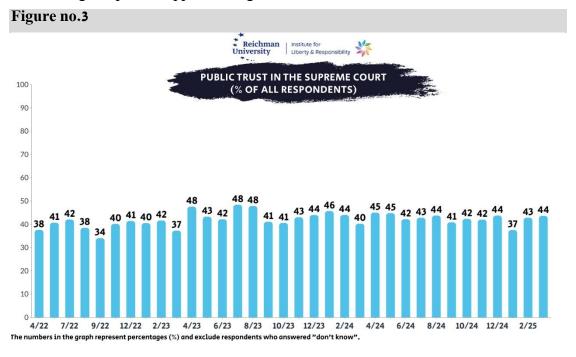
#### **Public Trust in the Knesset**

The level of public trust in Israel's legislature measured in March 2025 is **11**%. This further decline consistently maintains the Knesset's trust level as the lowest among government authorities. Only 1 in 10 Israelis expresses trust in the Knesset.



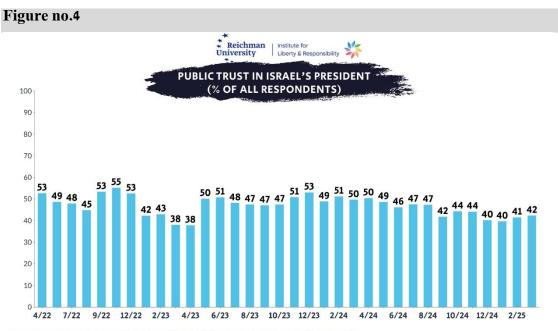
# **Public Trust in the Supreme Court**

In March 2025, the Israeli public's trust in the Supreme Court stands at 44%. The judicial system enjoys the trust of nearly half the public, positioning it as one of the institutions with the highest public support among those measured.



#### **Public Trust in the President**

Public trust in the President, measured in March 2025, stands at 42%. While it has fluctuated significantly over time, it remains relatively high compared to other institutions. However, in the past six months, trust in the President has fallen below our historical average.

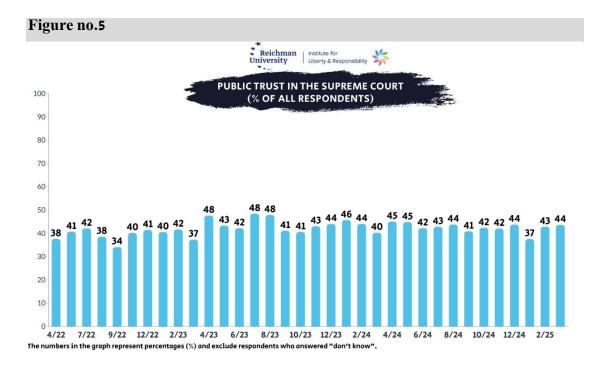


# **Public Trust in the Legal System**

In March 2025, the Israeli judicial system continues to enjoy a relatively high level of trust among the public. With 44% public trust, the Supreme Court remains one of the most trusted institutions in Israel. The Attorney General enjoys similar trust with 43% public support. The State Attorney's Office shows a lower figure of 32%. As a whole, the legal system enjoys significantly higher trust compared to other government institutions.

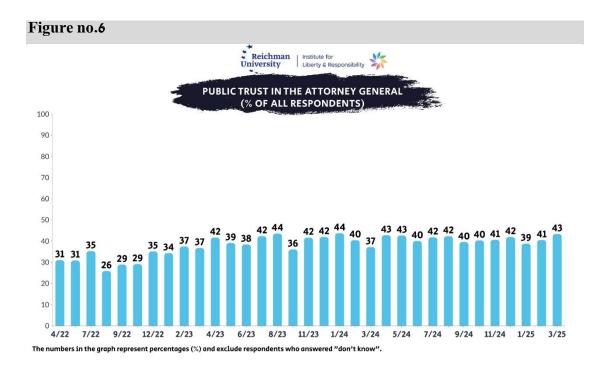
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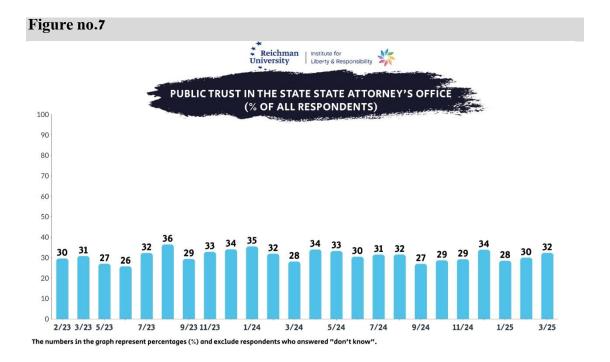
# **Public Trust in the Attorney General**

In March 2025, a trust level of **43**% was measured for the Attorney General, thus maintaining stability in public support over time.



# Public Trust in the State Attorney's Office

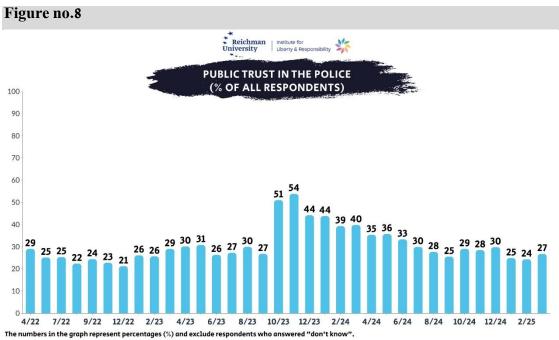
In March 2025, a trust level of **32**% was measured in the State Attorney's Office, returning to the trust levels measured in the first half of 2024.

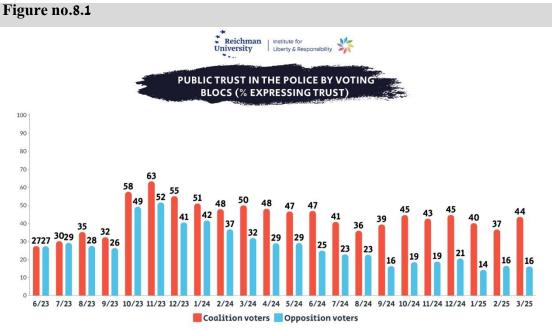


# **Trust in Security Forces**

#### **Public Trust in the Police**

The level of public trust in the police measured in March 2025 is 27%, significantly lower than the peak measured at the outbreak of the war on November 7 (54%) and represents a continuation of a clear trend of decline and recently stabilization at pre-war trust levels. Analysis of the data by political affiliation reveals a significant and widening gap, approaching 20 percentage points, with the continued decline in trust levels felt in both groups.

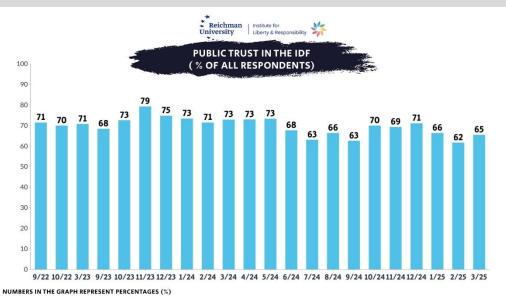




# **Public Trust in the IDF**

March 2025 data indicate that the IDF continues to enjoy the highest public trust, with 65% confidence, although this level of trust is still slightly low relative to the average since the beginning of our measurements.

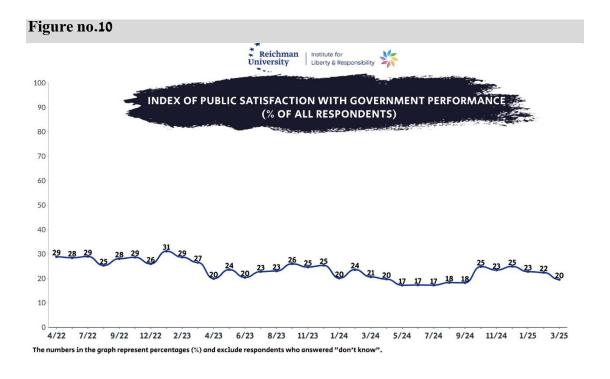




#### **Index of Public Satisfaction with Government Performance**

The Index of Public Satisfaction with Government Performance is a weighted measure of the public's trust in the government, public satisfaction with the government, public trust in the government's ability to address the most important issue for the public (for each person according to the issue that matters to them), and the assessment of how responsive the government is to the public.

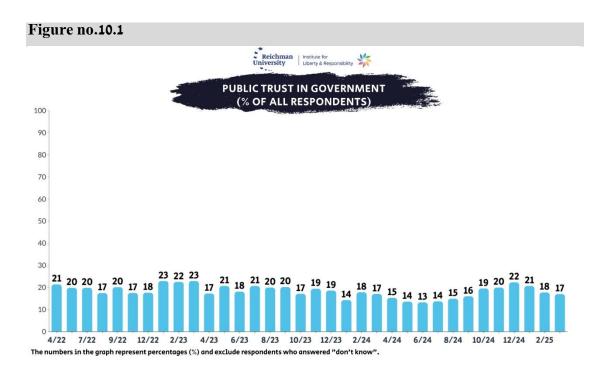
In March 2025, the index stands at 20% - highlighting an ongoing crisis of public trust in the government. Only 17% of the public expresses trust in the government, a trend that reflects a continued decline in recent months. Satisfaction with the government's performance stands at 20%, a figure that represents another decline compared to the previous three months. Only 17% of citizens believe that the government is responsive to public will. Additionally, only 23% of Israelis are satisfied with the way the government is addressing issues they perceive as most important to the country reflecting a significant gap between public expectations and the government's response to central challenges.



# **Index Components:**

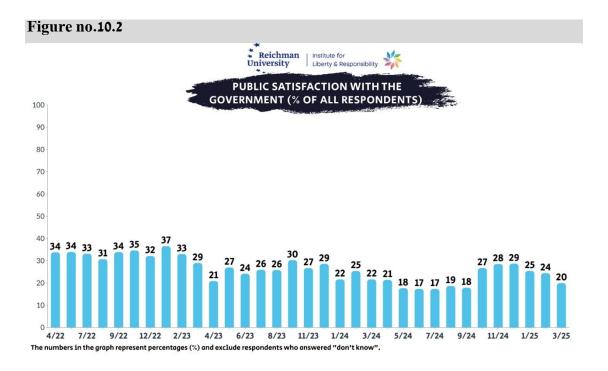
# **Public Trust in the Government**

The level of trust of the Israeli public in the government in March 2025 is 17%. With a general downward trend in recent months, this figure represents a generally low level of trust, with less than a fifth of the public expressing confidence in this institution.



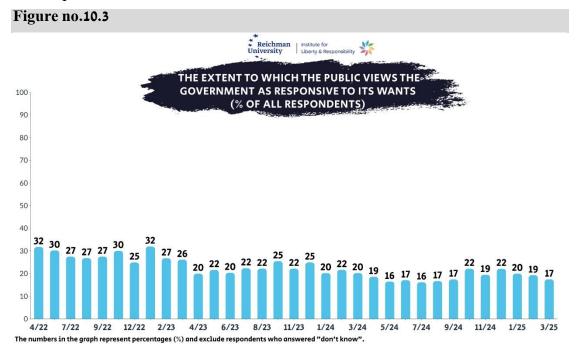
#### **Public Satisfaction with the Government**

The level of satisfaction with the government measured in March 2025 is **20**%, expressing another decline from the satisfaction levels observed in the previous three months. This means that only one-fifth of the public is satisfied with the government's performance.



# The Extent to Which the Public Views the Government as Responsive to its Will

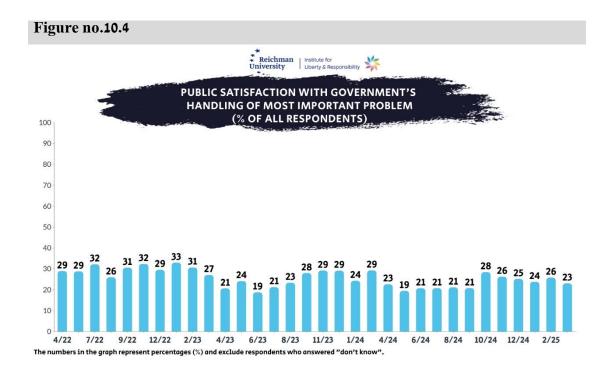
In March 2025, **17**% of citizens assessed that the government is responsive to the public's wants. This means that only one in six Israelis believes that the government is attentive to their wishes, a figure that reflects a sense of disconnection\_between the government and the public.



# Public Satisfaction Level with the Government's Handling of the Most Important Problem

This question examines the public's level of satisfaction with the government's handling of the most important problems facing the country (each respondent chooses the problem they consider to be the most important).

The data show that in March 2025, 23% of the Israeli public is satisfied with the way the government is addressing the important problems facing the country. This means that only about a quarter of Israeli citizens feel satisfied with the government's handling of issues they see as important.

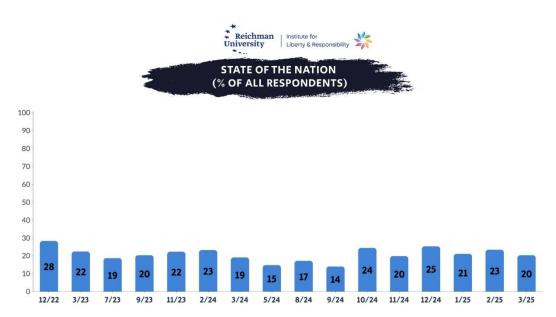


# **State of the Nation**

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The data shows a consistent picture of negative assessment of the state of the nation throughout most of the surveyed period, with only about a quarter of the public rating the situation as good.

Figure no.11



#### **National Pride**

March 2025 data shows that **74**% of the public expresses national pride, thus maintaining stability in the past year (and a decline since the outbreak of the war in October 2023). The data indicate consistent gaps in the level of pride between coalition and opposition voters, with coalition voters expressing higher levels of pride. In addition, there are ongoing gaps between Jews and Arabs.



THE NUMBERS IN THE GRAPH REPRESENT PERCENTAGES (%) AND EXCLUDE RESPONDENTS WHO ANSWERED "DON'T KNOW".

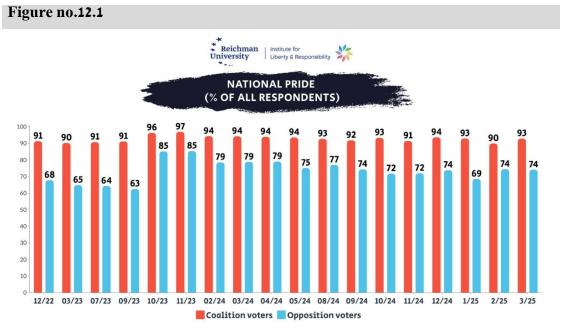
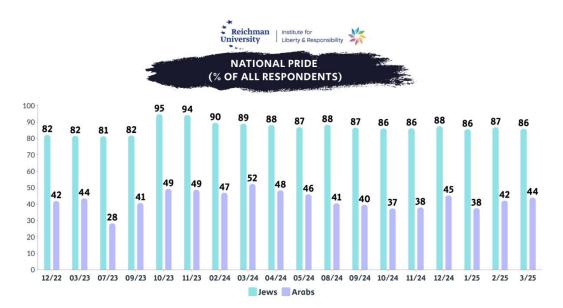


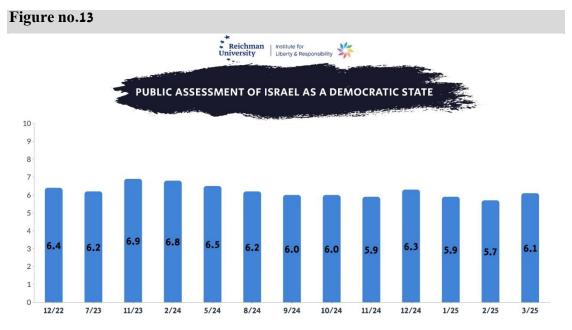
Figure no.12.2



# **State of Democracy**

#### **Public Assessment of Israel as a Democratic State**

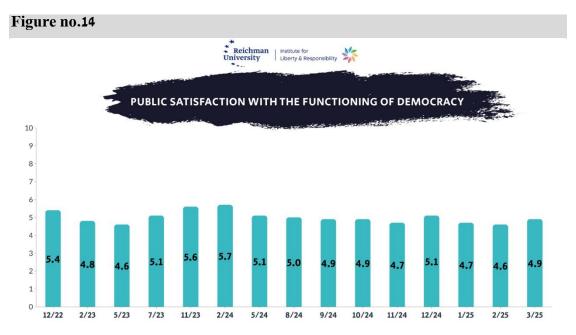
Based on the survey data, a general downward trend can be observed in the perception of Israel as a democratic state since the beginning of measurements, with certain fluctuations throughout the period. The latest figure from March 2025 (6.1) indicates a slight recovery from February's low point but is still significantly lower than the initial figure.



THE NUMBERS IN THE GRAPH EXCLUDE RESPONDENTS WHO ANSWERED "DON'T KNOW".

# **Public Satisfaction with the Functioning of Democracy**

Public satisfaction with the functioning of Israeli democracy has shown a general downward trend since the beginning of measurements, with fluctuations throughout the period. The most recent figure from March 2025 stands at **4.9**, reflecting a slight increase from the previous month, but still showing a decline relative to the beginning of the measurement.



THE NUMBERS IN THE GRAPH EXCLUDE RESPONDENTS WHO ANSWERED "DON'T KNOW".

# Methodology

The Institute for Liberty and Responsibility team at the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy at Reichman University prepared the survey questions and subsequently analyzed the data.

The surveys conducted in April, September and December 2022, and March and September 2023, were conducted by Geocartography company. The remaining surveys were conducted by ipanel. Both companies conduct online surveys in Israel.

The questionnaires were translated into Arabic, allowing Arab respondents to choose whether to answer in Hebrew or Arabic.

	Survey Date	Number of Respondents	Jewish Respondents	Arab Respondents	Sampling Error
1	April	2022	1,559	1,275	284
2	June	2022	807	657	150
3	July	2022	822	665	157
4	August	2022	810	652	158
5	September	2022	1,671	1,417	254
6	October	2022	1,507	1,206	301
7	December	2022	807	655	152
8	January	2023	1,461	1,205	256
9	February	2023	1,512	1,204	308
10	March	2023	1,558	1,257	301
11	April	2023	816	656	160
12	May	2023	813	657	156
13	June	2023	811	655	156
14	July	2023	813	661	152
15	August	2023	805	652	153
16	September	2023	1,562	1,227	335
17	October	2023	807	657	150
18	November	2023	803	651	152
19	December	2023	807	657	150
20	January	2024	805	652	153

21	February	2024	803	649	154
22	March	2024	1526	1266	260
23	April	2024	804	651	153
24	May	2024	810	657	153
25	June	2024	815	657	158
26	July	2024	807	655	152
27	August	2024	1512	1260	252
28	September	2024	1501	1251	250
29	October	2024	803	653	150
30	November	2024	807	657	150
31	December	2024	1465	1200	265
32	January	2025	811	655	156
33	February	2025	811	659	152
34	March	2025	1507	1257	250

Note: The maximum sampling error for the entire sample is at a 95% confidence level.

The Jewish respondents constitute a representative sample of the adult Jewish population in Israel, stratified by gender, age groups, geographical district, and level of religiosity. Additionally, the Arab respondents constitute a sample that closely represents the adult Arab population in Israel by gender, age groups, geographical district, and level of religiosity, with under-sampling of male respondents, respondents from the southern region, and respondents aged 40 and above within this population.

#### **Public Trust in Government Institutions**

Format of the questions asked: "To what extent do you have trust in each of the following institutions?", where respondents were required to answer regarding the Knesset, the Government, the Supreme Court, and the President.

Response options for the questions: 1. I have very high trust, 2. I have high trust, 3. I have little trust, 4. I have no trust at all, 5. Don't know.

#### **Public Trust in the Judicial System**

Format of the questions asked: "To what extent do you have trust in each of the following institutions?", where respondents were required to answer regarding the Israel Police, the Supreme Court, the Attorney General, and the State Attorney's Office.

<u>Response options for the questions</u>: 1. I have very high trust, 2. I have high trust, 3. I have little trust, 4. I have no trust at all, 5. Don't know.

<sup>\*</sup>The latest survey was conducted on March 9-12, 2025.

#### **Trust in Security Forces**

Format of the questions asked: "To what extent do you have trust in each of the following institutions?", where respondents were required to answer regarding the Police and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

<u>Response options for the questions</u>: 1. I have very high trust, 2. I have high trust, 3. I have little trust, 4. I have no trust at all, 5. Don't know.

#### **Index of Public Satisfaction with Government Performance**

The Index of Public Satisfaction with Government Performance of the Institute for Liberty and Responsibility represents an average of the public's level of trust in the government, satisfaction with the government, assessment of how responsive it is to the public, and the public's level of satisfaction with the government's handling of important problems facing the country. As part of constructing the index, internal reliability tests (Cronbach's alpha) were performed to examine the connection between these questions:  $\alpha = 0.74-0.86$ .

# Format of the questions asked:

- 1. To what extent do you have trust in the government? Response options: 1. I have very high trust, 2. I have high trust, 3. I have little trust, 4. I have no trust at all, 5. Don't know.
- 2. What is your level of satisfaction with the government's performance? Response options: 1. Very satisfied, 2. Satisfied, 3. Not satisfied, 4. Very unsatisfied, 5. Don't know.
- 3. What score would you give the government in addressing the most important problem facing the country today? From 0 (low) to 10 (high).
- Each respondent was asked to indicate the most important problem in their opinion that the country is facing, and then was asked about their assessment of the government's score in addressing this problem.
- 4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "The government is responsive to public problems"? Response options: 1. Strongly agree, 2. Agree, 3. Disagree, 4. Strongly disagree, 5. Don't know.

#### **State of the Nation**

Format of the question asked: "What do you think is the general state of Israel!" Response options: Very good; Good; So-so; Not good; Bad; Don't know

Format of the question asked: "Are you proud or not proud to be Israeli?"

Response options: Not proud at all; Not proud; Proud; Very proud; Don't know.

State of Democracy

<u>Format of the question asked</u>: "To what extent, in your opinion, is Israel a democratic country?"

Response options: On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means not democratic at all, and 10 means very democratic [Response options: 0-10, where 0 - not democratic at all and 10 - very democratic; 11 - Don't know]

<u>Format of the question asked</u>: "In general, to what extent are you satisfied or not satisfied with the way Israeli democracy functions?"

<u>Response options</u>: On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means very unsatisfied, and 10 means very satisfied [Response options: 0-10, where 0 - very unsatisfied and 10 - very satisfied; 11 - Don't know]