

## KEY CANDIDATES

### Benjamin Netanyahu (Likud, running joint with Yisrael Beitenu)

- Prime Minister since 2009 and also from 1996 to 1999.
- Former elite commando who grew to prominence as Israel's Ambassador at the UN.
- From an ideological right-wing background but accepted the idea of a Palestinian state in 2009.
- Fiscal conservative who has warned of spending cuts ahead; trusted on security issues.
- Likely to emerge as leader of the largest party and to be asked to form the next government.



### Shelly Yachimovich (Labour)

- Former TV journalist and anchor who entered the Knesset in 2006.
- Strong reputation as a parliamentarian promoting social issues.
- Positioned as centrist by focussing on social injustice whilst playing down divisive peace issues.
- Likely to lead the opposition to Netanyahu's next government.



### Avigdor Lieberman (Yisrael Beitenu, running joint with Likud)

- Outspoken, right-wing politician who served as Foreign Minister in the last government and is running as Netanyahu's number two since Likud and Yisrael Beitenu merged for the election.
- Born in Moldova he has a large base of support among Israel's Russian immigrant community.
- Served as Netanyahu's chief of staff in his first term before launching his own political career.
- Criminal indictments for fraud and breach of trust could prevent his return to government.



### Yair Lapid (Yesh Atid)

- Telegenic former TV news anchor, and son of late secular political leader Tommy Lapid.
- Positioned as centrist outsider representing Israel's silent middle-class majority.
- Campaigning for a fair share of the 'national burden', including drafting ultra-Orthodox Jews into the army.
- Significant chance of entering a Netanyahu led coalition.



### Tzipi Livni (Hatnua)

- Former foreign minister and leader of Kadima who was deposed by her party in March 2012.
- From a right-wing ideological background but now the leading advocate of the peace process.
- Her pitch to the voters is her good international standing and experience as a stateswoman.
- Has said she would not enter a Netanyahu led coalition, but nothing can be ruled out.



### Naftali Bennett (Habayit Hayehudi)

- Youthful former elite commando and hi-tech entrepreneur who served as Netanyahu's Chief of Staff before becoming head of the settler representative body the 'Yesha Council'.
- Bennett has injected vigour into the religious-Zionist movement, drawing votes from Likud.
- He is likely to play a prominent role in the next Israeli government.



### Ariyeh Deri/Eli Yishai (Shas)

- Rivals to lead the Sephardi ultra-Orthodox Shas, forced together by the party's spiritual leader, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef.
- Deri, absent from politics for a decade following a conviction, brings a common touch and wider appeal lacked by Yishai.
- They will hope to take domestic portfolios in the next government.

