

March 20, 2015

## **Final count: Likud boosted to 30 seats, Meretz up to 5**

After some 200,000 additional ballots were counted from IDF soldiers, absentees, prisoners and the hospitalized between Wednesday and Thursday night, the final count of votes in Tuesday's election shows that the Likud has risen from 29 to 30 seats and Meretz has gained another seat, totaling five mandates. In addition, according to Israel's Central Election Committee, out of a total of 5,878,362 eligible voters 4,253,336 participated in Tuesday's election or 72.3 percent of the electorate. Furthermore, the electoral threshold for any party to participate in the next Knesset was 136,808 votes with 33,482 votes to equal one mandate. According to The Jerusalem Post, the final counts of the election were Likud, Benjamin Netanyahu's party winning with 30 seats followed by The Zionist Union lead by Isaac Herzog with 24 seats, The Joint List with 13, Yesh Atid with 11, Kulanu with 10, Bayit Yehudi with 8, Shas with 7, Yisrael Beytenu with 6, UTJ with 6, and Meretz with 5.