



ועדת הבחירות המרכזית לכנסת
דוברות והסברה

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PRESS RELEASE:

The 24th Knesset Central Elections Committee budget is set at 674,616,000 NIS.

Were it not for Covid-19-related additional expenses, the budget would be 457,347,000 NIS.

The 24th Knesset Central Elections Committee budget was approved today by the Knesset finance committee and is set at 674,616,000 NIS. (This includes the CEC's regular running budget for the calendar year 2021.)

The approved budget reflects the stand taken by the Committee for the upcoming elections: **carrying out properly run elections according to the system's basic principles, offering each citizen the right to vote, and taking every possible measure to protect public health.**

Were these elections taking place **without the added challenges of the SARS-COV-2 virus**, the CEC budget would have been **457,347,000 NIS**.

The main additions to the budget are the following items and actions **necessary to protect public health**:

- **An increase of more than 35% in the number of voting stations.** The addition of this number of stations, not including Covid 19 precautionary expenses, costs **77,000,000**. (The cost of a single voting station, in normal situations, is **22,000 NIS**.)





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- **Addition of protective equipment at voting stations:** Hand sanitizer solution, plexiglass dividers on the tables to separate the voters from the voting station committee members, PPE outfits, masks, and masks with goggles (in Corona wards), at the cost of **5,280,000 NIS**.
- **According to the Ministry of Health, the most significant areas in which the virus spreads are the restroom areas.** For this reason, on Election Day, there will be cleaning in buildings with a concentration of voting stations throughout the country, at the cost of **17,000,000 NIS**.
- **In order to prevent exposure to people who are or might be carrying the virus, part of the budget has been allocated to installing voting stations specifically for people who were diagnosed and, separately, for people in quarantine, as follows:**
 - The CEC will set up **460 tent facilities**, which will house approximately **800 voting stations**, and another **140 voting stations will be set up in clinics** belonging to the Clalit Health Fund and other buildings. The cost of setting up these stations and facilities is estimated at **22,000,000 NIS**.
 - Some of these areas will be **“Vote and Drive” facilities**. There is **no way to know right now how many voters will be sick or quarantined on Election Day**. There are various parameters which will affect this, such as the reopening of the economy and reopening the airport.
In each municipality or regional council, there will be designated voting stations for people who are diagnosed and recovering at home, and separate voting stations for people in quarantine. In areas with a high rate of infection, there will be more such stations. Our current **working assumption** is 37,000 patients at home, and 50,000 people in quarantine.
 - The Public Health law **forbids a person who has been diagnosed with Covid 19 to leave their home during the isolation period**. However, an **amendment to the Election Law allows leaving one’s home only for the purpose of voting, under the guidelines which will be delineated by the CEC chairman**.





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To protect public health, and to prevent situations in which confirmed patients take advantage of being allowed to leave their homes in order to meet up with friends, which would endanger others' health, **the CEC will run a special transportation scheme for confirmed patients.**

Voters who are diagnosed with Covid 19 will register for a ride and will only be able to use this transportation service if their name appears on the list presented to the CEC. Only voters who are active carriers of the virus on Election Day are eligible for this ride service to and from the designated voting stations. The cost of this scheme is estimated at **20,000,000 NIS.**

- In addition to the usual **representatives of three different parties** at each voting station, at a cost of 84,000,000 NIS, and observers from other candidate lists, every voting station will be supervised by **two secretaries who will oversee the voting process and protect election purity.** The cost for the additional secretary at each station is **75,000,000 NIS.**

Were the elections **not taking place in the wake of Covid 19**, this cost would be 56,000,000. In the previous elections, there was a second secretary at 5,100 voting stations, at the additional cost of 12,000,000 NIS.

- There will also **be an election purity inspector at each voting station**, who will carry a camera on her/his person. This inspector will document any exceptional events and report them immediately. The inspector will also document the counting process. **It must be emphasized that the inspector will NOT document voters coming to vote.**

The cost of this project is **55,000,000 NIS.** This sum includes a one-time cost of 16,000,000 for the purchase of the cameras. In the previous elections, there were 5,000 such inspectors, whereas in the current elections, there will be 15,000.

Sincerely,





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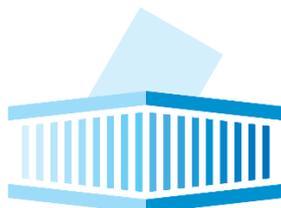
Giora Fordes,

Central Elections Committee Spokesman





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