# Prologue

1. Whereas the State of Israel has been established to protect the Jewish people from persecution
2. And whereas the signatories recognize the moral and practical imperative of protecting the rights of minorities
3. And whereas the signatories recognize the centrality of streams within the State of Israel
4. The following shall be the Constitution of the State of Israel

# The State Assembly

## The Combined Houses

1. The State Assembly shall consist of two Houses, the Knesset and the Constitutional Assembly.
2. Members of both Houses shall receive appropriate annual payment from the national treasury in accordance with law.
3. Both Houses shall select their own president and other officials. They shall establish their own rules pertaining to meetings, proceedings and internal discipline, and may punish members for disorderly conduct.

## The Knesset

1. The Knesset shall have the power to pass any law. However the Judiciary shall reserve the right to overturn laws passed by the Knesset on the basis of this Constitutional.
2. Membership in the Knesset shall be granted to the individual who receives the most votes within a Cluster.
3. The term of office of members of the Knesset shall be five years. However, the term shall be terminated before the full term is up in case the Knesset is dissolved.
4. When the Knesset is dissolved, there must be a general election of members of the Knesset within one hundred and twenty (120) days from the date of dissolution, and the Knesset must be convoked within thirty (30) days from the date of the election.
5. Members may not be expelled without the dissolution of the Knesset. This includes members indicted or convicted of any crime.
6. Members may become ineligible if:

##### The Constitutional Assembly removes them from the Knesset.

##### They are deceased.

##### They resign.

##### They join the Cabinet or assume the position of Prime Minister, President, leadership of any branch of the security services or a judiciary appointment.

1. The Knesset may conduct investigations in relation to government, and may demand the presence and testimony of witnesses, and the production of records.
2. The Knesset shall have the power to ratify this Constitution with a super-majority of 66% of the Knesset.

## The Constitutional Assembly

1. The Constitutional Assembly shall have the following powers:

##### Confirmation of Supreme Court justices, which shall require 66% approval from the Constitutional Assembly.

##### Confirmation of lessor court justices, which shall require 51% approval from the Constitutional Assembly.

##### Amendments to this Constitution, which shall require 75% approval from the Constitutional Assembly.

##### Overriding of Supreme Court decisions, which shall require 66% approval.

##### Removal of Judges from the Supreme Court, which shall require 75% approval.

##### Removal of members of Knesset, which shall require 75% approval.

##### Selection of the President, which shall require 51% approval.

1. The Constitutional Assembly shall have two representatives from each officially recognized Stream plus one additional representative for each 500,000 people in a Stream[[1]](#footnote-1).
2. Membership in the Constitutional Assembly shall granted on the basis of popular voting within the Stream. The candidate with the highest number of votes received shall occupy the Stream’s first seat with following candidates occupying additional seats until the Stream has filled all of its assigned seats.
3. Members of the Constitutional Assembly shall be seated for a ten-year period and the Constitutional Assembly shall not be dissolved.
4. If a member shall become ineligible to sit in the Constitutional Assembly, then they shall be replaced by the next eligible receiver of votes from within the Stream they represent.
5. Members may become ineligible if:

#### They are deceased.

#### They resign.

#### They join the Cabinet or assume the position of Prime Minister, President, leadership of any branch of the security services or a judiciary appointment.

1. Voting power for each seat within the Constitutional Assembly shall be apportioned according to the following rules with voting power rounded down to the nearest tenth:

##### One multiplied by the percentage of the eligible draft-age population made available for Army Service over the prior two calendar years. This is irrespective of whether the Army drafts their members[[2]](#footnote-2).

##### Plus 0.7 multiplied by the percentage of the eligible draft-age population made available for National Service but not Army Service over the prior two calendar years. This is irrespective of whether the National Service drafts their members.

##### Plus 0.5 multiplied by the percentage of the eligible draft-age population not made available for either Army Service of National Service over the prior two calendar years.

1. Apportionment of votes shall be reassessed every 2 years[[3]](#footnote-3).
2. As the Constitutional Assembly can only be seated once Streams have been established, the Constitutional Assembly would first be seated two years after this Constitution is accepted.

# Cabinet and Executive

1. Executive power shall be vested in the Cabinet[[4]](#footnote-4).
2. The Cabinet shall consist of the Prime Minister, who shall be its head, and other Ministers of State, as provided for by law.
3. The Prime Minister and other Ministers of State must be civilians.
4. The Cabinet, in the exercise of executive power, shall be collectively responsible to the Knesset.
5. The Prime Minister shall be designated from among the members of the Knesset by a resolution of the Knesset. This designation shall precede all other business.
6. The Prime Minister shall appoint the Ministers of State. However, a majority of their number must be chosen from among the members of the Knesset. The Prime Minister may remove the Ministers of State as he chooses.
7. If the Knesset passes a non-confidence resolution, or rejects a confidence resolution, the Cabinet shall resign en masse, unless the Knesset is dissolved within ten (10) days.
8. When there is a vacancy in the post of Prime Minister, or upon the first convocation of the Knesset after a general election of members of the Knesset, the Cabinet shall resign en masse.
9. In the cases mentioned in the two preceding articles, the Cabinet shall continue its functions until the time when a new Prime Minister is appointed.
10. The Prime Minister, representing the Cabinet, submits bills, reports on general national affairs and foreign relations to the Knesset and exercises control and supervision over various administrative branches.
11. The Cabinet, in addition to other general administrative functions, shall perform the following functions:

####  Administer the law faithfully; conduct affairs of state.

#### Manage foreign affairs.

#### Conclude treaties. However, it shall obtain prior or, depending on circumstances, subsequent approval of the Knesset.

#### Administer the civil service, in accordance with standards established by law.

#### Prepare the budget, and present it to the Knesset.

#### Enact cabinet orders in order to execute the provisions of this Constitution and of the law. However, it cannot include penal provisions in such cabinet orders unless authorized by such law.

#### Decide on general amnesty, special amnesty, commutation of punishment, reprieve, and restoration of rights.

1. All laws and cabinet orders shall be signed by the competent Minister of State and countersigned by the Prime Minister.
2. The Ministers of State, during their tenure of office, shall not be subject to legal action without the consent of the Prime Minister. However, the right to take that action is not impaired hereby.
3. If the Knesset passes a non-confidence resolution, or rejects a confidence resolution, the Cabinet shall resign en masse, unless the Knesset is dissolved within ten (10) days.

# The Judiciary

1. The whole judicial power is vested in the Supreme Court and in such inferior courts as are established by law. No extraordinary tribunal shall be established, nor shall any organ or agency of the Executive be given final judicial power. All judges shall be independent in the exercise of their conscience and shall be bound only by this Constitution and the laws.
2. Decisions of the Supreme Court may not be overturned or overruled except by the Constitutional Assembly.
3. The Supreme Court is vested with the rule-making power under which it determines the rules of procedure and of practice, and of matters relating to attorneys, the internal discipline of the courts and the administration of judicial affairs. The Supreme Court may delegate the power to make rules for inferior courts to such courts.
4. Candidate Judges for any courts shall be selected by the Cabinet.
5. Candidate Judges shall only be appointed to any Court when confirmed by the Constitutional Assembly.
6. Judges shall not be removed except through:

#### 75% vote of the Constitutional Assembly.

#### Being deceased.

#### Voluntary retirement.

#### Joining the Cabinet, or assume the position of Prime Minister, President, leadership of any branch of the security services or joining either House.

1. The Supreme Court shall have 15 members.
2. The initial membership in the Supreme Court shall be the current members of that court.
3. All such judges shall receive, at regular stated intervals, adequate compensation which shall not be decreased during their terms of office.
4. The Supreme Court is the court of last resort with power to determine the constitutionality of any law, order, regulation or official act.
5. Trials shall be conducted and judgment declared publicly. Where a court unanimously determines publicity to be dangerous to public order, a trial may be conducted privately.

# Cluster (קבוצות), Streams (זרמים) and Cultural Identities

## Streams (זרמים)

1. Every ten years, two years prior to the election of the Constitution Assembly, a national Stream selection process shall occur. Adult individuals can also elect to change their Stream at any time.
2. Independent adult citizens shall select their own Stream by order of preference. If the Stream they select has fewer than 100,000 members, then those who voted to join it would be assigned to the next Stream in their order of preference. If none of their selections cross the 100,000-person threshold, then they would not belong to a Stream.
3. Each independent adult shall be able to select their own Stream. They shall only be able to select the Streams of their dependents if all the parents and/or guardians of the dependents choose the same Stream. Otherwise dependents will not be considered members of that Stream for civil law purposes.
4. For the purposes of numerical apportionment and education and welfare budgeting, dependents whose parents and/or guardians select distinct Streams shall be partially counted towards each parent/guardian Stream on the basis of proportionality[[5]](#footnote-5).
5. To be eligible for selection by citizens, a Stream must have a written Constitution with legislative, legal, administrative and clauses that determines how it will manage its own governance. These Constitutions must include methods for selecting the management of the Stream’s various functions.
6. Any Stream with more than 100,000 members would be recognized by the State.
7. Stream administrations, with powers delineated by their Constitutions, shall:

#### Establish and maintain educational systems.

#### Establish and maintain courts to manage civil affairs that are solely between members at the time of the civil event. Streams can choose not to exercise this power.

#### Establish and maintain systems of welfare.

1. Any civil affairs affecting members of two or more Streams shall be subject to the civil courts of the State and not those of any Stream. One exception is if the civil affair occurred when both members belonged to the same Stream, even if one or both members subsequently changed Streams.
2. National budgets for education, welfare and civil justice may be unevenly distributed to the Streams on the basis of economic status only. They shall not be unevenly distributed on any other basis, including ethnicity, cultural identity, race or stream.
3. Knesset shall allocate funds for the administration of each Stream on the basis of their numerical membership alone.

## Clusters (קבוצות)

1. Ninety (90) days prior to each Knesset elections, citizens shall be assigned to Clusters.
2. There shall be 150 clusters, with each Cluster being established with the number of adult citizens of the State divided by 150
3. Each Cluster shall be made up of a representative sample of the Streams within the State. This shall be achieved through the following process.

#### Create a Cluster associated with the most populous Statistical Area (as defined by the Central Bureau of Statistics) – the Cluster Under Assignment (CUA)

#### Identify the Stream with the highest concentration of citizens in that Statistical Area – the Stream Under Assignment (SUA)

#### If there are pre-existing CUA members who belong to that SUA, assign them to the CUA until the ratio of SUA members to the total CUA population (Cluster-Stream-Ratio) for is equal to the ratio of the Stream membership nationally vs. the overall national population (Nation-Stream-Ratio).

#### If additional members of the SUA are necessary to match the NSR, then randomly assign citizens based on their geographic proximity to the Statistical Area associated with the CUA.

#### Repeat Steps 2-4 until all Streams have been assigned to the CUA.

#### Repeat steps 1-5 until all 150 Clusters have been created.

1. New adult citizens shall be assigned to the closest geographic Cluster.

## Cultural Identity

1. As the State of Israel has been established to protect the Jewish people from persecution, and in reaction to genocide in the Christian majority world and ethnic cleansing in the Muslim majority world, Jewish Cultural Identity shall provide for two specific rights:

#### Immigration shall be open to those determined to have Jewish cultural identity as determined by the Jewish Cultural Identity Committee.

#### The heads of three major security agencies shall have Jewish cultural identity. These include the Army (Tzahal), the External Intelligence Agency (Mossad) and the Internal Intelligence Agency (Shabak). All other agencies and positions in government shall be open equally to all citizens of the State.

1. Jewish Cultural Identity shall be set for each citizen upon:

##### Birth (with Jewish Cultural Identity being an option if either parent is of that Cultural Identity)

#### Marriage (with Jewish Cultural Identity being an option for both partners if either partner had prior Jewish Cultural Identity)

#### Immigration (if immigration was conducted on the basis of Jewish Cultural Identity)

#### Conversion (as determined by rules established by the Jewish Cultural Identity Committee)

#### Exclusion (as determined by rules established by the Jewish Cultural Identity Committee)

1. There shall be seven appointees to the Jewish Cultural Identity Committee.
2. Each year, the candidate who received the most votes from members of the Jewish Cultural Identity shall be elected to the Jewish Cultural Identity Committee and immediately replace the longest tenured member of the court.
3. Should an appointee be deceased or resign, an election shall be held to replace them with the new appointee serving out their term.
4. Upon acceptance of this Constitution, seven appointees shall be selected by popular election. The candidate with the highest total votes shall serve a seven-year term, the candidate with the second most votes a six-year term and so on.
5. The Jewish Cultural Identity Committee shall not be considered a religious court. It shall exist solely for the purpose of recognizing Jewish Cultural Identity.

# Extension of the State

1. Additional municipalities and their residents shall be eligible to join the State of Israel[[6]](#footnote-6).
2. Territory shall be considered part of a municipality on the basis of 80% or more of that territory being owned by residents of the municipality or leased to residents of the municipality for a term of no fewer than 10 years[[7]](#footnote-7)[viii].
3. Candidacy to join the State of Israel would require 80% or more of the municipal residents voting to join the State of Israel.
4. Candidate municipalities that vote to become part of the State of Israel will undergo a three-year probationary period. During that time:

#### Any individuals suspected by the State of violence against the State, any Stream, or the Jewish ethnicity shall be turned over to the State for criminal prosecution[[8]](#footnote-8).

#### The educational system within the municipality’s territory shall not incite violence against the State, any Stream, or the Jewish ethnicity.

#### The leadership of the municipality shall not incite violence against the State, any Stream, or the Jewish ethnicity.

#### Border controls must be established between the municipality and any areas that are not part of the State or candidates to join the State.

1. Upon the end of the probationary period, the border of the State shall extend to include the Municipality and its territories.
2. Municipal areas can be removed from the State if:

##### 80% of their residents vote to leave the State, or

##### The Knesset, Constitutional Assembly, Cabinet and Supreme Court all vote to remove them with a minimum of 66% approval in each body

# Municipalities

1. Regulations concerning the organization and operations of local public entities shall be fixed by law in accordance with the principle of local autonomy.
2. The local public entities shall establish assemblies as their deliberative organs, in accordance with law. The chief executive officers of all local public entities, the members of their assemblies, and such other local officials as may be determined by law shall be elected by direct popular vote within their several communities.
3. Local public entities shall have the right to manage their property, affairs and administration and to enact their own regulations within law.
4. A special law, applicable only to one local public entity, cannot be enacted by the Knesset without the consent of the majority of the voters of the local public entity concerned, obtained in accordance with law.

# The President

1. The President shall be the symbol of the State and of the unity of the People, deriving his position from the will of the people with whom resides sovereign power.
2. The President shall be selected by the Constitutional Assembly with a 10-year-term.
3. The advice and approval of the Cabinet shall be required for all acts of the President in matters of state, and the Cabinet shall be responsible therefor.
4. The President shall perform only such acts in matters of state as are provided for in this Constitution and he shall not have powers related to government.
 The President may delegate the performance of his acts in matters of state as may be provided by law.
5. The President shall appoint the Prime Minister as designated by the Knesset.
 The President shall appoint the Chief Judge of the Supreme Court as designated by the Cabinet and confirmed by the Constitutional Assembly.
6. The President, with the advice and approval of the Cabinet, shall perform the following acts in matters of state on behalf of the people:

#### Promulgation of amendments of the constitution, laws, cabinet orders and treaties.

#### Convocation of the Knesset.

#### Dissolution of the Knesset.

#### Proclamation of general election of members of the Knesset.

#### Attestation of the appointment and dismissal of Ministers of State and other officials as provided for by law, and of full powers and credentials of Ambassadors and Ministers.

#### Attestation of general and special amnesty, commutation of punishment, reprieve, and restoration of rights.

#### Awarding of honors.

#### Attestation of instruments of ratification and other diplomatic documents as provided for by law.

#### Receiving foreign ambassadors and ministers.

#### Performance of ceremonial functions.

1. No property can be given to, or received by, the President, nor can any gifts be made therefrom, without the authorization of the Knesset.
2. All Presidents shall receive, at regular stated intervals, adequate compensation which shall not be decreased during their terms of office.

# Fundamental Rights

1. No person shall be held in bondage of any kind. Involuntary servitude, except as punishment for crime, is prohibited.
2. Freedom of thought and conscience shall not be violated.
3. Freedom of religion is guaranteed to all.
4. Freedom of assembly and association as well as speech, press and all other forms of expression are guaranteed. No censorship shall be maintained, nor shall the secrecy of any means of communication be violated except as determined to be appropriate by the Knesset with the agreement of the Supreme Court.
5. Every person shall have freedom to choose and change his residence and to choose his occupation to the extent that it does not interfere with the public welfare. Freedom of all persons to move to a foreign country and to divest themselves of their nationality shall be inviolate.
6. All people shall have the right to receive an equal education correspondent to their ability, as provided by law. All people shall be obligated to have all boys and girls under their protection receive ordinary education as provided for by law. Such compulsory education shall be free.
7. The right to own or to hold property is inviolable. Property rights shall be defined by law, in conformity with the public welfare. Private property may be taken for public use upon just compensation therefor.
8. The people shall be liable to taxation as provided by law.
9. No person shall be deprived of life or liberty, nor shall any other criminal penalty be imposed, except according to procedure established by law.
10. No person shall be denied the right of access to the courts.
11. No citizen shall be apprehended except upon warrant issued by a competent judicial officer which specifies the offense with which the person is charged, unless he is apprehended, the offense being committed.
12. No person shall be arrested or detained without being at once informed of the charges against him or without the immediate privilege of counsel; nor shall he be detained without adequate cause; and upon demand of any person such cause must be immediately shown in open court in his presence and the presence of his counsel.
13. The right of all persons to be secure in their homes, papers and effects against entries, searches and seizures shall not be impaired except upon warrant issued for adequate cause and particularly describing the place to be searched and things to be seized, or except as provided by Article 33. Each search or seizure shall be made upon separate warrant issued by a competent judicial officer.
14. In all criminal cases the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial tribunal. He shall be permitted full opportunity to examine all witnesses, and he shall have the right of compulsory process for obtaining witnesses on his behalf at public expense. At all times the accused shall have the assistance of competent counsel who shall, if the accused is unable to secure the same by his own efforts, be assigned to his use by the State.
15. No person shall be compelled to testify against himself. Confession made under compulsion, torture or threat, or after prolonged arrest or detention shall not be admitted in evidence. No person shall be convicted or punished in cases where the only proof against him is his own confession.
16. No person shall be held criminally liable for an act which was lawful at the time it was committed, or of which he has been acquitted, nor shall he be placed in double jeopardy.
1. Raising the number needed to add seats will further increase the impact of minorities. See Appendix A for the possible examples of the makeup of the Constitutional Assembly. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The goal here is to allow the Army and National Service to decide who they actually want – but to grant the Streams a ‘credit’ for submitting to the process. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. This is to enable an uptick in drafting to quickly result in greater representation. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. I borrowed heavily from the Japanese Constitution. I used this as a more modern example concerned with more modern concerns although I removed Sections specifically dealing with Japanese issues. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. For example, if a father selects one Stream and a mother another, then a child will be counted as ½ of a member for each Stream. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. This is to allow integration and citizenship of Palestinians. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. There might need to be some sort of body to establish what these bounds practically are, although I am not averse to it being a decision by the courts. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. This would apply to Shtachim as well as Palestinian towns. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)