

# IS ISRAEL UNGOVERNABLE?

Gregg Carlstrom

08 October 2026

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## Speaker

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**Gregg Carlstrom** is a Middle East correspondent for The Economist, based in Dubai. He has covered the region for more than 15 years, with previous stints in Beirut, Cairo and Tel Aviv.

He is a frequent guest on major television and radio networks and a regular speaker to public- and private-sector audiences. His work has also appeared in Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, The Atlantic and other publications. His first book, on Israel's domestic political schisms, was published in 2017.

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# Election night

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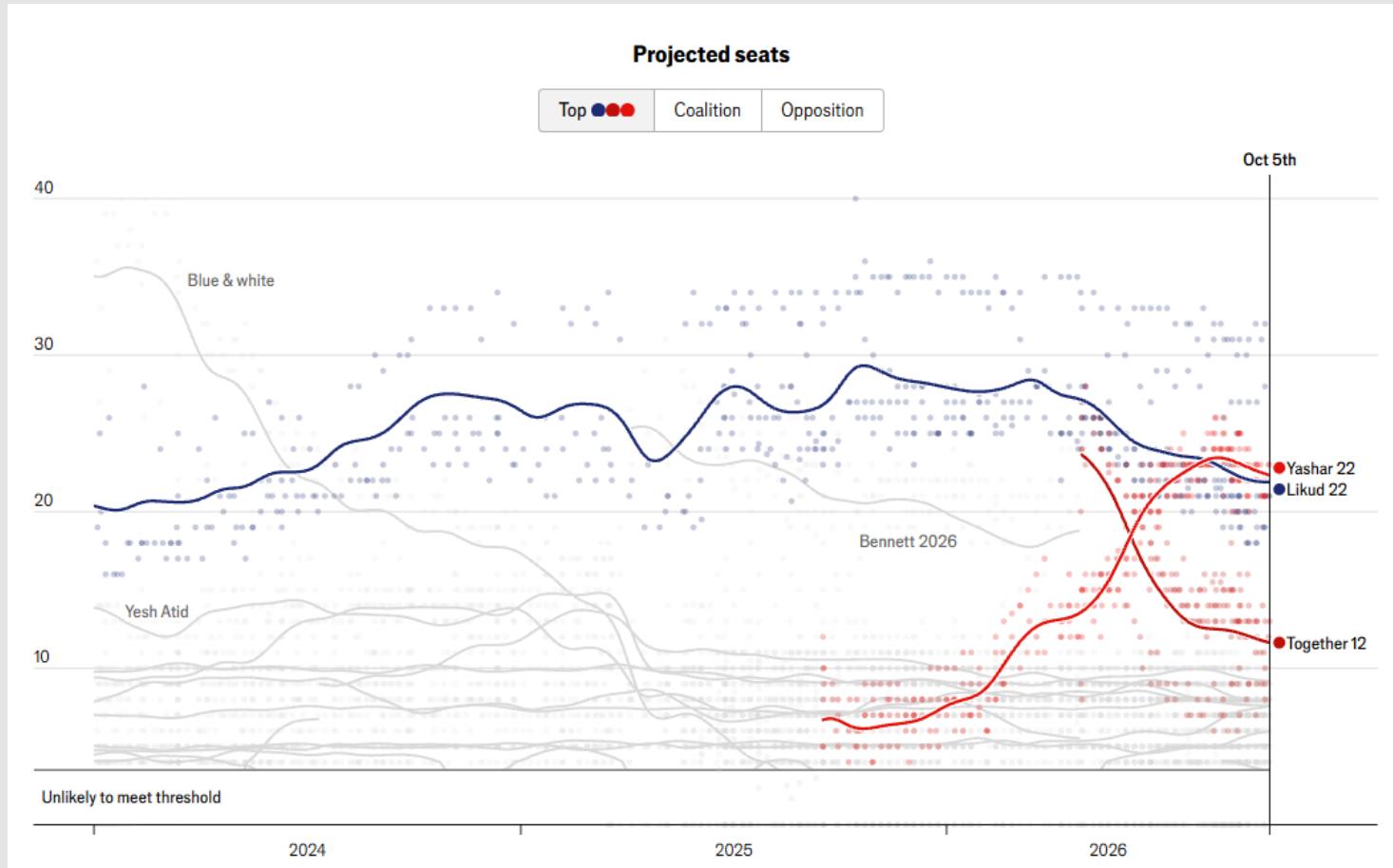
- Polls close at 10 p.m. Israel time
- Major television networks immediately release exit polls
  - Often imprecise, and often disagree with one another
- Most ballots are usually counted by the following afternoon
  - Delays for “double-envelope” votes: prisoners, diplomats serving abroad, etc.
- Results to be officially certified on November 4th

## After results are certified:

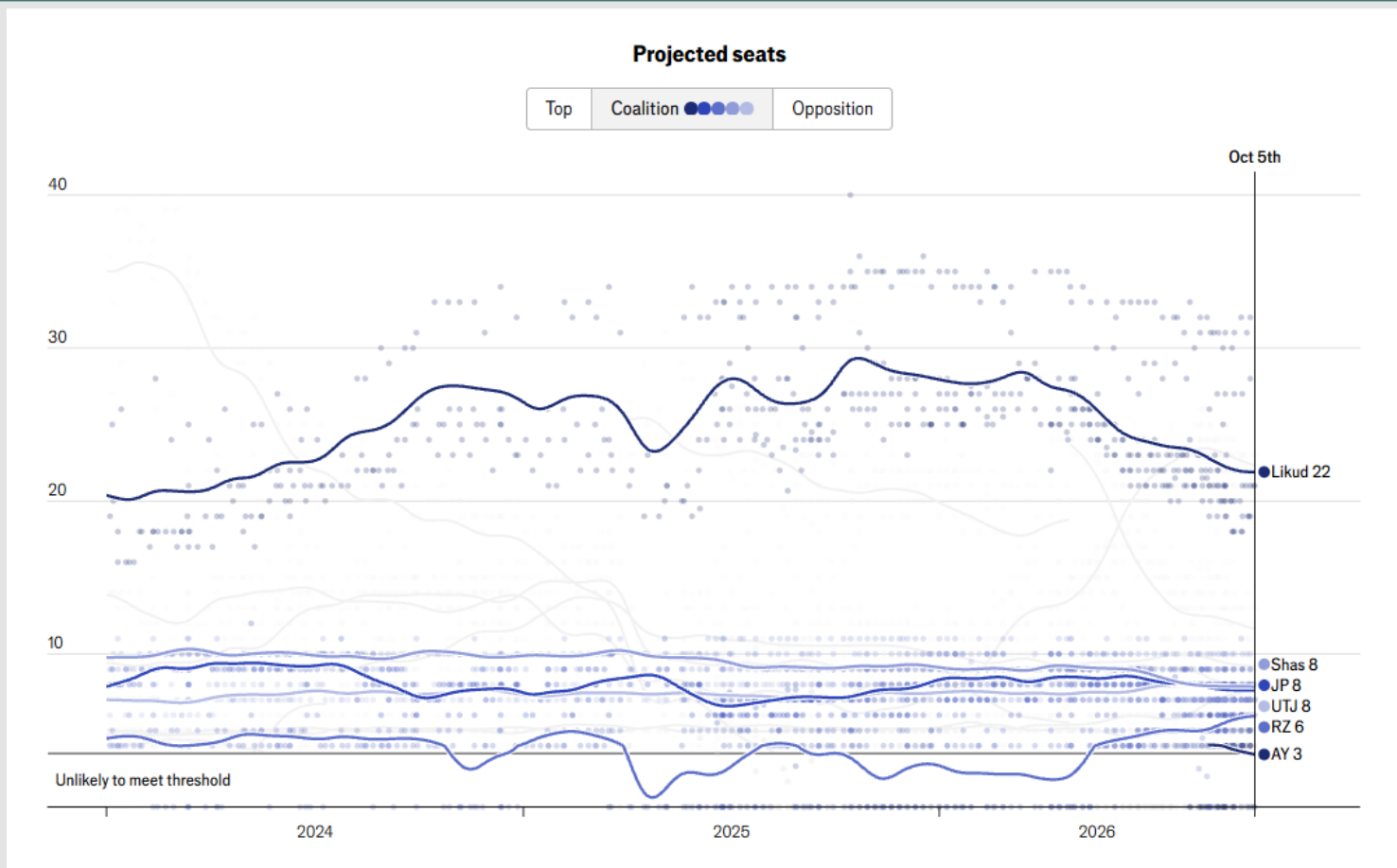
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- Within one week, president meets heads of parties to ask who they support for PM
- President then nominates candidate to form government
  - Typically (but not necessarily) head of largest party
  - 28-day mandate, with possible 14-day extension
- If unsuccessful, president can nominate second candidate
  - 28-day mandate (no possibility of extension)
- If again unsuccessful, group of 61 MKs can request third candidate
  - 14-day mandate (no possibility of extension)
- If still unsuccessful, Knesset is dissolved
- In past two decades, process has never taken < 50 days

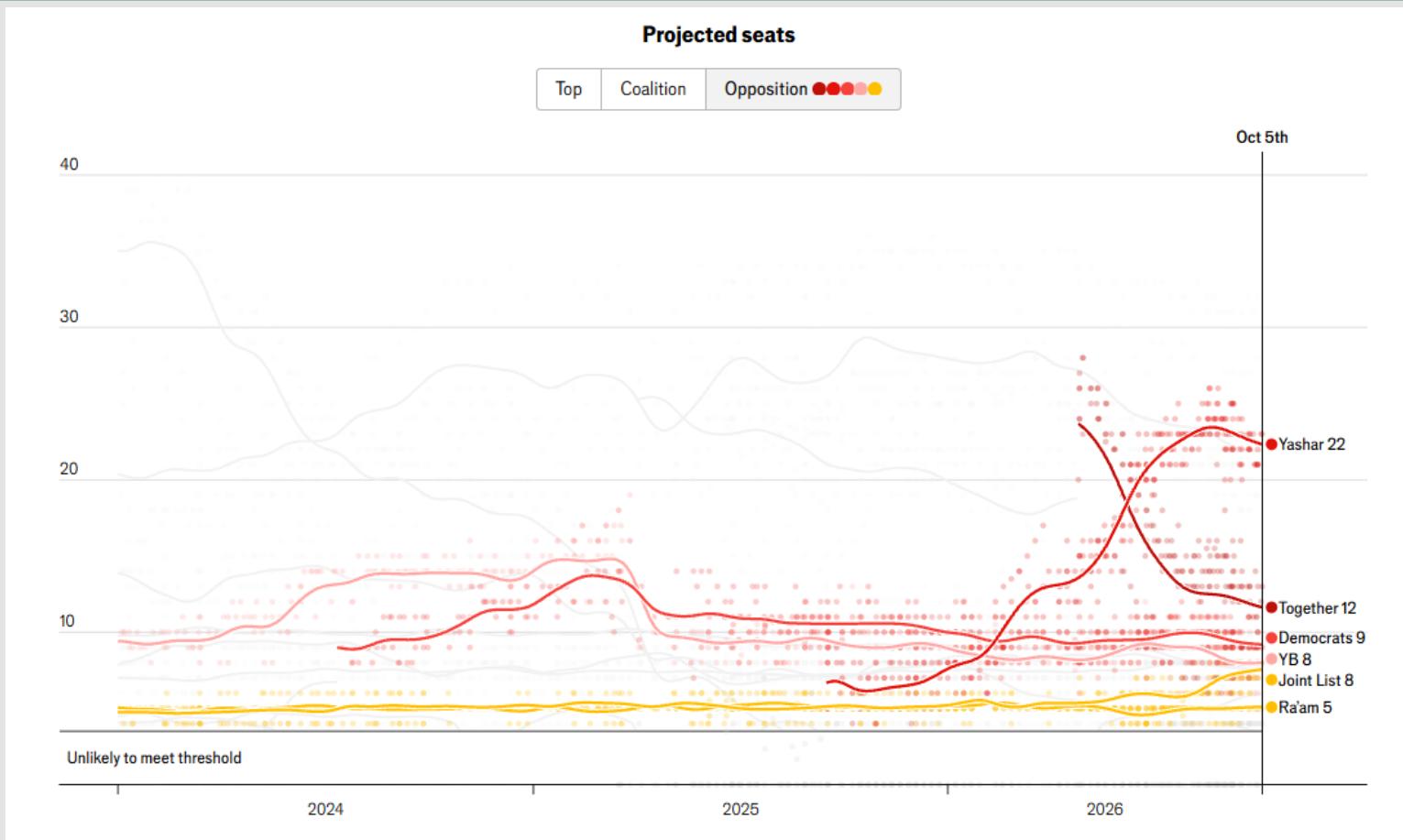
# Poll tracker: Main parties



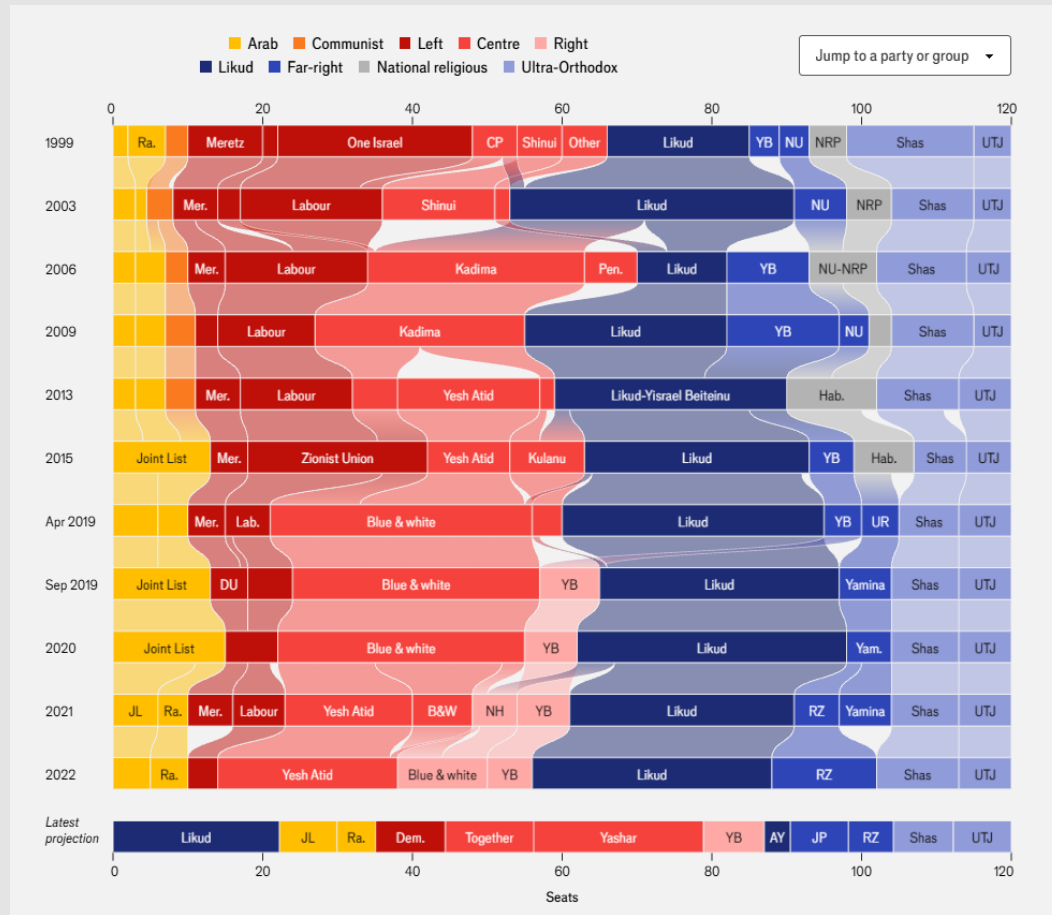
# Poll tracker: Coalition parties



# Poll tracker: Opposition parties



# Historical makeup of the Knesset



# Q&A

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