



TOP STORY • CALIFORNIA, USA

A Judge Weighs a Fight Over 20,000 California Ballots

The US Justice Department wants California to set aside ballots it says may come from non-citizens.

Written and fact-checked by AI • News Pebbles

In the United States, voters choose leaders in elections, and in California ballots were already being mailed out. The US Justice Department, the federal government's law office, sued California on 15 October. It asked a court to stop the state counting about 20,000 ballots, which it suspects come from people who are not US citizens.

California refused to set those ballots aside. Its lawyer, Michael Cohen, told the court that the law the department points to has nothing to do with running elections. It makes it a misdemeanor, a minor crime, for a non-citizen to vote in a federal election, and it targets voters, not election workers.

On Tuesday 27 October, Judge David Carter held a hearing. He said any threats to election workers should stop at once. He seemed doubtful about the demand and said he would rule on Wednesday.



The dispute is about ballots in California, on the west coast of the United States.

WHY IT MATTERS

Judges decide whether every eligible vote is counted fairly, and who gets to say a voter is not eligible.

WORLD • ISRAEL

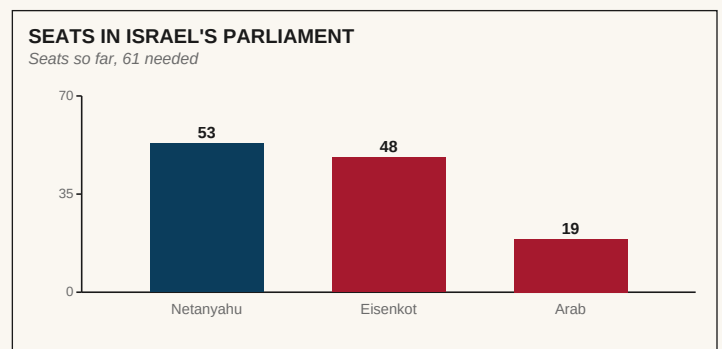
Israel's Vote Count Leaves Neither Side in Charge

After the 27 October election, no group has the 61 seats it needs in a 120-seat parliament.

Israel's parliament, the Knesset, has 120 seats, so a group needs 61 for a majority. Israel voted on 27 October, and 77.7% of eligible voters took part, the highest share since 1999.

With most votes counted, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's bloc, a team of allied parties, had 53 seats. Gadi Eisenkot's bloc had 48. Arab parties had 19. Netanyahu rejects working with Arab parties, and they have ruled out joining his government.

Next, President Isaac Herzog will pick someone to try to form a government, with up to 42 days.



Unofficial counts with most votes counted. Final results are due on 4 November.

WHY IT MATTERS

Whoever forms the next government will decide Israel's laws and its choices about the war.

ONE-LINE BRIEFS

- Israel: Final official results are due on 4 November.
- California: Mail ballots went to all registered voters.

TOMORROW'S WATCHLIST

- Whether Judge Carter names a special master.
- Whether Israel's final results on 4 November change the seat counts.

Keep exploring. See you tomorrow.