

3,290,480 by Two O'Clock

The 14:00 turnout on election day, counted in people instead of percentages, and what Avraham's early morning says about the hours that are left.

Aryeh Leib Thorne Toren · Jerusalem · Tuesday 27 October 2026 / 16 Cheshvan 5787

At 14:00 today the Central Elections Committee put out its number. 44.9 percent of eligible voters had voted. At the same hour in the 2022 election it was 38.9 percent. The committee's acting director-general, Adv. Din Livneh, gave the headcount, 3,290,480 people, and said they had broken all the records the committee keeps. It's the highest turnout at that hour in about half a century of the committee's records.

Percentages hide people. So here's the math, step by step.

The committee lists 7,331,981 eligible voters for this election.

- 44.9 percent of 7,331,981 is about 3,292,100. That fits the committee's count of 3,290,480. The gap is rounding: 3,290,480 divided by 7,331,981 is 44.88 percent.
- At 2022's pace, 38.9 percent of today's roll, about 2,852,100 people would have voted by 14:00.
- 3,290,480 minus 2,852,100 is about 438,000. Call it 440,000 more people than the old pace, in seven hours.
- Against 2022's actual headcount at that hour (38.9 percent of 6,788,804, about 2,640,800), today is about 650,000 ahead. Part of that is a bigger roll: the committee added 543,177 voters since 2022.
- And 7,331,981 minus 3,290,480 is 4,041,501. At 14:00, more than four million eligible voters still hadn't voted.

These are counts of who showed up. They say nothing about whom anyone chose.

This week we read Vayera. When G-d tells Avraham to take Yitzchak up the mountain, the Torah doesn't record an argument. It records an alarm clock: "So early next morning, Abraham saddled his donkey" (Bereishit 22:3). Vayashkem Avraham baboker. Rashi needs two words: nitzdarez lamitzvah, he hurried to the mitzvah (Rashi on Bereishit 22:3, from Pesachim 4a). He got up early for the hardest thing he was ever asked to do. Three chapters earlier, the morning after he pleaded for Sedom, it's the same phrase: "Next morning, Abraham hurried to the place where he had stood before the L-rd" (19:27).

The Gemara builds a rule on that verse. A bris can be done any time on the eighth day, "the entire day is suitable," but "the vigilant are early in the performance of mitzvot, as it is said: And Abraham rose early in the morning" (Pesachim 4a).

Both halves of that rule are about today. 3,290,480 people were the vigilant. They came early. The other half matters just as much: the entire day is suitable. If you haven't voted yet, you haven't missed it. It isn't early anymore. It's still the day.

Back home in Pittsburgh nobody cared which shift you worked. They cared that you showed up for it.

Voting ends at 22:00. The committee says anyone in line at a voting station by 22:00 still votes. Bring your ID. Avraham went early to the hardest test of his life. Nobody's asking that of us. It's a line, an envelope and a ballot box.

I encourage all eligible voters to vote.

All glory to the Ribono shel Olam · Errors are mine

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