

VOTING | הצבעה

[HATZBA'AH]

The derivative word *l'hatzbiah* (לְהַצְבִּיחַ, “to vote”) can also mean “to point” or “to indicate.” These verbs share the three-letter root **ע-ב-צ** (ts-b-a) with *etzbah* (אֶצְבָּע, “finger”). When using the expression “by show of hands,” many North Americans raise their open hands, while many Israelis raise closed hands with only their index finger extended.



PRESIDENT | נְשִׂיא

[NASI]

This word comes directly from the Torah, describing leaders from each of the 12 tribes of Israel (Numbers 4:34). It shares its three-letter root **נ-ש-א** (n-s-a) with the verb *laset* (**לְשִׂאת**, “to carry” or “to marry”) and the word *lehitna’sseh* (**לְהִתְנַשֵּׂא**, “to be high,” “above all else,” or “to be arrogant”). This same root is also found in *masa* (**מַסָּא**, “burden,” or in the bible, “prophecy”).



LEADER | מְנַהִיג

[MANHIG]

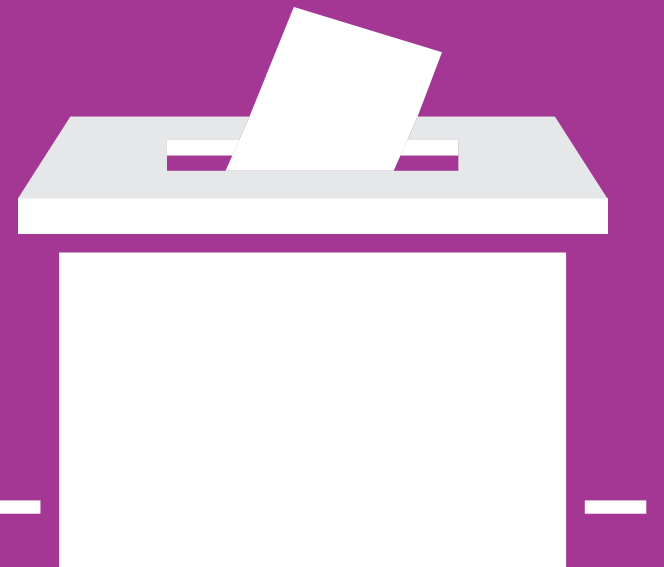
What does it mean to be a leader? מְנַהִיג shares its three-letter root נ-ה-ג (n-h-g) with the words *linhog* (לְנִהוֹג, “to drive”), *minhag* (מִנְהָג, “tradition” or “habit”), and *l’hitnaheg* (לְהִתְנַהֵּג, “to behave”).



ELECTION | בְּחִירוֹת

[BECHIROT]

בְּחִירוֹת shares its three-letter root ב-ח-ר (b-ch-r) with the words *livchor* (לִבְחֹר, “to choose”), *b’chirah* (בְּחִירָה, “choice”), and *nivchar* (נִבְחַר, “chosen”).



CANDIDATE | מועמד

[MU'AMAD]

מועמד shares a three-letter root **א-מ-ד** (a-m-d) with many everyday Hebrew words, including *la'amod* (**לעמד**, “to stand”), *amidah* (**עמידה**, the central prayer in every service, lit. “standing”), and *amid* (**עמיד**, “durable”). This root is also in the phrase *emdat hatzba'ah* (**עמדת הצבעה**, “voting booth”).



ISRAELI PARLIAMENT | כְּנֶסֶת

[KNESSET]

The Knesset is the legislative branch of the Israeli government. כְּנֶסֶת shares its three-letter root כ-נ-ס (k-n-s) with the nouns *beit kneset* (בֵּית כְּנֶסֶת, “synagogue,” lit. “house of assembly”), *kenes* (כְּנֶס, “convention”), *nes* (נֶס, “miracle”), and *knisah* (כְּנִיסָה, “entrance”).

