Abstract. We prove a necessary and sufficient condition on the list of nonzero integers $u_1, \ldots, u_k, k \geq 2$, under which a monic polynomial $f \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$ is expressible by a linear form $u_1 f_1 + \cdots + u_k f_k$ in monic polynomials $f_1, \ldots, f_k \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$. This condition is independent of $f$. We also show that if this condition holds, then the monic polynomials $f_1, \ldots, f_k$ can be chosen to be irreducible in $\mathbb{Z}[x]$. 