



March 24, 2025

Fellow Congregants:

We're writing to you about an event currently taking place that is of vital importance to Jewish people across the world – the **World Zionist Congress** election. It's arguably the most important election you've never heard of. We're hoping this letter can rectify this. For those of you who have already voted - thank you! We hope you will use the contents of this letter to encourage others to follow your lead. Also - please complete the **exit poll** on the back if you have not done so already!

What is the World Zionist Congress?

The World Zionist Congress (WZC) – often called the “Parliament of the Jewish People” – is a democratically elected legislative body that serves as a platform for Diaspora Jews to have a voice in Israel. WZC elections are held every 5 years. Voting in the 2025 election takes place March 10 – May 4. Through this election, U.S. Reform Jews can cast a vote that will influence policy and \$1 billion in annual budget decisions in Israel, and advocate for values we care about like **democracy, pluralism, security, women's and LGBTQ+ rights, humanitarian causes**, and also **combat antisemitism**.

How Does the Election Work?

American Jews will be electing 152 delegates to the WZC. It would be quite unwieldy to have to vote for 152 individuals to represent you, so instead, candidates run as a slate. There are 21 slates running in this year's U.S. election. One slate, **VOTE REFORM**, officially represents the Reform Jewish Movement in the U.S. The slate was selected by **ARZA**, the Association of Reform Zionists of America, which is the Zionist arm and voice of the Reform Movement and an affiliate of the **Union for Reform Judaism (URJ)**.

Who is Eligible to Vote in the WZC Election?

Any person 18 or older living in the U.S. who identifies as a Jew can vote, provided they pay a \$5 registration fee which helps cover the processing costs. Voting can be done online or using a mail-in ballot.

Why is Voting Important? What's at Stake?

Our representation as Reform Jews in the WZC helps protect fundamental rights for all Israelis and Reform Jewish communities. The **ultra-Orthodox** and **ultra-Nationalist** movements are hoping to gain power through the World Zionist Congress elections to advance their agenda, including: **rejecting our conversions, questioning the authenticity of our children's Jewish identity, stripping Israeli Reform clergy and communities of their rights and funding, advancing anti-democratic policies, and rolling back gains for LGBTQ+ rights**. Without Reform Jewry's rightful place in the halls of power, our values

will be more than imperiled: they are in danger of being extinguished in the State of Israel that we cherish. **We need to VOTE REFORM for Israel to be the country that we want it to be for our children and our children's children!**

Ok - I'm Ready to Vote - How Do I Do It?



- Vote online - go to <https://www.vote4reform.org> or scan this QR code:
 - There are 2 steps - you must register first (enter name, select a method to receive your pin, \$5 payment) and then vote (using your pin, select Slate #3 - VoteReform). You will know you are done when you see "Thank you for voting!"
- Vote by paper ballot (included)
 - We included 2 paper ballots. If you need more, you can make copies yourself, or contact Beth David. Page 1 is informational and does not need to be returned. Only Page 2/3 needs to be returned. Each ballot must be sealed in its own envelope before returning. You may return yourself or bring them to Beth David for us to return.
- After you vote, go to uri.org/ivoted or scan this QR code to access this very quick **exit poll** so the URJ can track your votes and Beth David can know that you Voted Reform!



This is a critical time for the State of Israel and the Jewish People. It is also a critical time for the Reform Movement in Israel. It is not an exaggeration to say that electing the **VOTE REFORM** slate to the WZC can have an enormous, positive impact on all three. But we can't do all of this without your vote. So please, register and vote by the May 4 deadline.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to reach out to us (lgoodlev@bdavid.org, davidrichman@mac.com, or wmmadway@gmail.com) with any questions or concerns you might have.

In Solidarity,

Cantor Lauren Goodlev & David Richman, Co-Captains, Beth David WZC Vote Reform Election Team
Bill Madway, on behalf of the WZC Vote Reform Election Team