

# What are the World Zionist Congress Elections?

## ► **From 3/10 to 5/4, online elections are being held for the World Zionist Congress.**

The results of these elections impact the allocation of billions of dollars by the largest organizations in the Jewish world - the WZO, KKL/JNF, and the Jewish Agency - as seats on their respective boards of directors are allocated according to the outcome of these elections. Any Jewish American (*by self-definition*) over 18 who is not a member of another religion, resides permanently in the U.S. and didn't vote in the last Knesset election can vote in these elections with no organizational membership or pre-registration required.

## ► **Why does this matter?**

Jewish communities are diverse. Every Jew and Jewish community has different values and priorities as well as different visions for Israel and the Jewish world. Founded by Herzl in 1897, the World Zionist Congress is the only democratic body that includes Jews of all backgrounds from all countries. When you vote in elections for the World Zionist Congress, you make your and your community's voice and values heard at some of the most important decisionmaking tables in the Jewish world. When you don't vote, you give up your voice at this democratic table, and hand power, billions of dollars and control over to others who may not share your values and your vision for Israel and the Jewish world.

## ► **What kind of decisions are at stake?**

Will the major organizations under the Zionist Congress's auspices invest millions in Jewish institutions from all streams - Orthodox, Reform and Conservative - in Israel and around the world,

or invest in only one way of being Jewish? Will KKL/JNF invest more of its over \$1 billion annual budget in rebuilding communities devastated on October 7th, or in combating climate change, or in other political priorities? Will my values and the institutions I care about be well-represented enough to secure funding from these organizations for education, camps, and youth programs my family and I love? The different parties running in these elections have different priorities and different answers to these questions. When you don't vote, you let others who do vote decide for you. Your vote is your way to shape the future of Israel and the Jewish people.

## ► **Voting is simple.**

Any Jewish American (*by self-definition*) over 18 who is not a member of another religion, resides permanently in the U.S. and didn't vote in the last Knesset election can vote in these elections with no organizational membership or pre-registration required. Voting takes five minutes, and costs \$5. This is an administrative fee in the spirit of Herzl's *Zionist Shekel* - that is, buying into the future of Israel and the Zionist Movement - that covers the cost of the election and nothing else. **You can vote starting 3/10 at [zionistelection.org](https://zionistelection.org).**

## ► **We can't afford to sit this out.**

For too long, too many American Jews have not participated in these elections - only 123,000 American Jews voted last time out of nearly 8 million - leading to a reality where too many of our voices simply aren't heard at some of the most important decision-making tables in the Jewish world. That has to change.

*When you cast your ballot for a party in online elections,  
you shape the ideological and political makeup of...*

## The World Zionist Congress



*...which in turn shapes the ideological and political  
makeup of the boards of directors of...*



### The Jewish Agency for Israel

**50% of the board reflects the WZC**

The Jewish Agency has an annual budget in the hundreds of millions, and its board decides how to allocate that money. It runs aliyah and shlichim (emissaries) programs, and is seen as the main voice of the Diaspora before Israel's government. This means control over its board has major influence on Israeli policy on matters of religion and state: who's considered a Jew, who can make aliyah, and so on.



### Keren Hayesod

**50% of the board reflects the WZC**

Keren Hayesod raises money for Israel around the world.



### KKL/JNF

**100% of the board reflects the WZC**

Completely separate from JNF-USA, KKL/JNF (founded by Herzl in 1902) has an annual budget nearing \$2 billion: proceeds from it owning 13% of Israel's land. Its board makes key decisions on how much of this money to allocate on Jewish education outside Israel and which projects to spend on in Israel, such as rebuilding after 10/7.

**Total funds at stake:  
up to ~\$2.3 billion annually**