

## I want to vote for Hatikvah, but I am uncomfortable with the Jerusalem Program

We understand your hesitation; however, the extreme right is delighted that you are uncomfortable, as they do not want you to vote. When we don't show up, we ensure their victory. If you don't vote, the situation in Israel will get worse as we will be prevented from protecting our values and the people in Israel who need our help.

We must ensure that our progressive American voice is at the table to directly impact the flow of \$5 billion to Israeli society and global Jewish life over the next five years.

We hope this brief explanation will make it possible for you to sign the Jerusalem Program and vote Hatikvah in the WZC elections.

### What is the Jerusalem Program?

Created in 1951 at the 23rd World Zionist Congress, the first one to be held in Jerusalem after the establishment of the State, the Jerusalem Program is the successor to the Basel Program created in 1897, reflecting that Zionism's goals changed after the creation of Israel.

Netanyahu has dominated Israeli politics for a generation, and his worldview is too often seen as the authentic expression of Zionism. This is a fallacy. Like today, there were many definitions of Zionism in the time of Herzl and when this document was created in the early fifties. We cannot let the right-wing define what Zionism and Israel should be. Instead, we must interpret the calls to action below through our progressive lens. We can acknowledge the historical time and political movements of the late forties and early fifties and continue to reexamine it in the same way that we continue to interpret ancient Jewish text to reflect our modern times.

The Declaration of the State of Israel (and not the Jerusalem Program) is our guiding light to ensure that Israel remains democratic with equal rights for all its citizens regardless of religion, sex, or the color of one's skin.

### 7 Key Points of the Jerusalem Program

The current Jerusalem Program was amended in February 2024 and includes seven key points:

#### 1. The Unity of the Jewish People and Its Bond to Israel.

Progressive Jews can acknowledge that we have a connection to this land while also recognizing that Palestinian people share a connection to this same geographic territory.

#### 2. Aliyah and the Effective Integration of All Immigrants into Israeli Society.

Israeli history has proven that not all immigrants are treated equally, and we in the Hatikvah camp continue to work to protect all who choose to make Aliyah.

#### 3. Strengthening Israel as a Jewish, Zionist, and Democratic State.

To all of us, it is progressive, pro-Israel, and pro-democratic to help Israeli Jews and Palestinians who denounce the occupation. We strengthen Israel when we protest on the streets or turn to the courts in Israel and when we criticize the policies of the Bibi Government here in the United States. It is because we are committed to human rights and the social and economic rights of all of Israel's citizens that we are the ones fighting to preserve democracy. Everything we do is founded in our Jewish principles, including the belief that all human beings are created in the divine image, seeking justice, living our lives through

kindness, and a commitment to Tikkun Olam (Repairing the World), which we in the Hatikvah family do every day as social activists.

#### 4. Furthering Jewish, Zionist, and Hebrew Education

By voting in the WZC and supporting Hatikvah, you can ensure that our progressive values are taught in Israel and around the world. You can guarantee that shlichim (emissaries) to communities to summer camp reflect us and the diversity of our Jewish community. Jewish education includes teaching about respect and inclusion for all forms of Jewish religious practice and equality for Jewish and non-Jewish community members. When we ask questions, we seek nuanced answers and dialogue that leads to understanding and compromise. There is always more than one correct answer to a Jewish question.

#### 5. Nurturing Mutual Jewish Responsibility, Defending the Rights of Jews as individuals and as a Nation, and Struggling Against anti-Semitism

Our activism is fueled by our commitment and responsibility to correct errors of the past and improve our future. We do not believe that our rights are more important than those of other minorities who live around us, both here and in Israel. We work against anti-Semitism on the Right and the Left as we partner with other organizations, religious institutions, and individuals to demand an end to hatred. That includes calling out the Trump Administration's feigned concern for anti-Semitism to pursue its anti-democratic agenda,

#### 6. Settling Israel

Hatikvah's platform is clear: we oppose the policy of permanent occupation and annexation, and we call for an end to the war in Gaza. We remain steadfast in our long-term objective of a diplomatic pathway to ensure freedom, security, and self-determination for Israelis and Palestinians alike. We are also the only slate that is publicly committed to rebuilding communities for all of Israel's citizens (and not just Jewish ones) that have been destroyed in the South and the North since October 7th.

#### 7. Encouraging Recruitment and Service in the IDF and Encouraging Full National Service for all Currently Exempted from the IDF Draft

In no way does this mean that we support the war in Gaza, nor the attacks on Palestinians in the West Bank. This amendment was added, in hope that the Ultra-Orthodox would not sign the Jerusalem Program because they vehemently disagreed with this proposition. But it has not been effective. The Ultra-Orthodox community is not bothered by this statement and continues to vote in large numbers. Their rabbis have compelled them to vote because "they can no longer afford to sit on the sidelines while decisions affecting Jews in Israel are being made by non-Haredi Jews."

#### Conclusion

Political developments in Israel and here in the United States make it more difficult for some of us to connect with Israel, but we cannot give up. We must engage, vote, and create change from within the WZC. This WZC election may be our last chance to push back the right of the religious, messianic right. Your April vote is one of the few acts that can create change in leadership and policy, including determining 100 percent of the Board of JNF/KK"L, the largest landowner and land purchaser on both sides of the Green Line.

At this time of year, think of the Jerusalem Program as the Hillel sandwich or "korech." It is a symbolic item combining the bittersweet experience of how we got here with the sweetness of hope—Hatikvah for a future that, with our commitment, is possible.

**VOTE HATIKVAH LINE 16! VOTE FOR ALL YOU BELIEVE IN AND HELP US BRING ABOUT NECESSARY CHANGE.**

**Vote Hatikvah-Line 16**