

Vote MERCAZ, Slate #2



OUR PLATFORM

MERCAZ USA is the Zionist Organization of the Conservative/Masorti Movement, the voice of Conservative/Masorti Judaism within the World Zionist Organization, the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Jewish National Fund/ Keren Kayemet L'Yisrael, ensuring that our values are expressed at the highest level in regard to matters relating to Israel and the Jewish world.

Conservative/Masorti Judaism was the first of the modern Jewish religious movements to embrace Zionism and has steadfastly remained at the forefront of the effort to promote its values: the centrality of Israel in the life and consciousness of the Jewish people and the unity of the Jewish people wherever they may live.

Our connection to the Land and State of Israel and its capital Jerusalem begins first and foremost with our people's 4000-year covenant with the Divine. This covenant has imposed upon us the responsibility not only to support and defend the State of Israel as the nation state of the Jewish people but also to create in Zion an exemplary society — democratic and pluralistic — that empowers all streams of Jewish practice, guarantees the rights of all of its citizens, is uncompromising in its struggle for security even as it strives for peace with its Arab neighbors and is committed to protecting the environment and its natural resources.

MERCAZ STANDS FOR:

An Open Pluralistic Jewish Society — A vote for **MERCAZ** is a vote for an Israeli society that celebrates Jewish values without limiting itself to one particular stream of Judaism. We insist on the acceptance and registration of all conversions, weddings and divorces performed by Conservative/Masorti rabbis in Israel and demand that all non-Orthodox rabbis functioning as community spiritual leaders receive State-funded salaries as do their Orthodox colleagues. We applaud the cam-

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What You Need to Know About Voting

General registration and voting starts January 13th and ends on April 30th.

Registration and voting may be done either online or by mail. If begun online, it must be completed online; if begun by mail, it may be completed either by mail or online.

For those who are participating in the elections online, it is a one-step process to register and to vote. Once they have submitted the registration form with their email address and paid by credit card, they will get an email with a link to the voting site. They will receive an email confirmation of registration only after they have completed the voting process.

For those who register using a paper registration form, paper ballots will be mailed out starting at the beginning of March. Only those who first registered by mail may receive a paper ballot and vote by mail.

People who don't receive their mailed ballots by mid-March should send an email to azm@election-america.com or call (844) 413-2929 to request a ballot. During the voting period, if anyone requires a replacement mail ballot, he/she must call (844) 413-2929. There is a \$10 fee for replacement ballots.

Those who register by mail-in paper forms may opt to vote online provided that their email address has been listed on the paper form.

If you have any questions about registering or voting, contact Election America at (844) 413-2929 or azm@election-america.com.

If you have any questions about **MERCAZ USA**, our slate of candidates or our platform, visit our website www.mercazusa.org or contact us at (212) 533-2061 or info@mercazusa.org.



MERCAZ USA

The Zionist Organization of the Conservative Movement

ENDORSED BY: Jewish Theological Seminary of America, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, Rabbinical Assembly, Women's League for Conservative Judaism, Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs, Cantors Assembly, Masorti Foundation for Conservative Judaism in Israel, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, Masorti Olami, United Synagogue Youth, National Ramah Commission, Jewish Educators Assembly, North American Association of Synagogue Executives and Solomon Schechter Day School Association.

Candidates for Delegate Positions

Dr. Arnold Eisen

Janet Tobin

Dr. Stephen Wolnek

Aaron Pluemer

Margo Gold

Rabbi William Gershon

Dr. Marilyn Wind

Rabbi Nicole Guzik

Rabbi Charles Simon

Rabbi Bradley Artson

Carol Simon

Nolan Lebovitz

Stephen Steckler

Rabbi Robert Golub

Cantor Alberto Mizrahi

Rabbi Steven Abraham

Gloria Cohen

Rabbi Vernon Kurtz

Sandy Starkman

Rabbi Adam Rosenthal

Rabbi Steven Wernick

Rabbi Felipe Goodman

Gloria Landy

Matthew Abelson

Mary Sanders

Rabbi Mitchell Cohen

Elliott Brown

Jennifer Rolnick

Sarrae Crane

Rabbi Gerald Skolnik

Rabbi Eytan Hammerman

Rabbi Daniel Dorsch

Myles Simpson

Laura Lewis

Martin Werber

Joseph Kogen

Dr. Jonathan Mitzmacher

Michael Perloff

Naomi Yadin-Mendick

Dana Levinson

Dr. Howard Rosenblatt

Bernard Goldblatt

Marc Gary

Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham

Cantor Nancy Abramson

Rabbi Stuart Weinblatt

Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin

Avi Siegel

Irma (Cindy) Megiddo

Ira Bartfield

Dr. Robert Goodman

Erica Miller

Rabbi Julie Schonfeld

For a complete set of MERCAZ election materials,

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Richard Skolnik
Gerhard (Gary) Rosenthal
Noam Kornsgold
Julian Brook
Rabbi Gilah Dror
Rita Wertlieb
Joshua Nason
Alan Silberman
Eric Weis
Heddy Belman
Jill Wolfson
Allan Gottesman
Dr. Reva Gershen Lowy
Rabbi Shalom Lewis
Noah Sudow
Ned Gladstein
Ilana Meskin
Rabbi Alan Silverstein
Sarah Lipsev Brokman
Rabbi Stewart Vogel
Gail Goldfarb
Rabbi Alan Iser
Alex Willick
Donna Dina Eliezer
Judith Horowitz
Harold Masor
Jacob Altholz
Allan Kahan
Cantor Stephen Stein
Rabbi Daniel Nevins
Eric Leiderman

Barbara Ezring
Rabbi Arthur Lavinsky
Vivian Saper
Asher Schlusberg
Rabbi Debra Newman Kamin
Harvey Hershkowitz
Rabbi Jay Kornsgold
Corey Rosen
Rabbi Randall Konigsburg
Rabbi Rachel Ain
Marc Neiwirth
Sarah Sechan
Michael Mills
Sandy Blumenthal
Rabbi Edward Bernstein
Avidan Halivni
Cantor David Lipp
Rabbi Gordon Yaffe
Toni Bickart
Aliza Sebert
Lewis Krulwich
Ilisa Cappell
Rabbi Scott Bolton
Benjamin Hofkin
Rabbi Harold Kravitz
Rabbi Joseph Krakoff
Judith Kenter
Michael Sacks
Steven Kerbel
Rabbi Matthew Earne
Rabbi Julia Andelman

Eric Raby
Barbara Rosenau
Michael Waterman
Thomas Sudow
Mirit Sands
Rabbi Andrea Merow
Dr. Samuel Klagsbrun
Cantor Jeremy Lipton
Joshua Ull
Rabbi Jeremy Wiederhorn
Adrienne Pasternak
Cantor Jack Chomsky
Shira Rosenblum
Larry Pachter
Dr. Jeffrey Kopin
Rabbi Ahud Sela
Sara Horowitz
Kenneth Turkewitz
Harvey Rosen
Evelyn Seelig
Rebecca Wind
Rabbi Jerome Epstein
James Schlesinger
Rabbi Joel Meyers
Blossom Siegel
Franklin Kreutzer
Jacob B. Mazer
Evelyn Auerbach
Jack Topal
Rabbi Matthew Simon
**Italics = Youth Delegate*

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paigned to provide alternatives for marriage and divorce for all Israelis and support the concept of redeveloping the entire Western Wall plaza to answer the legitimate demands of the Conservative/Masorti Movement, the Reform Movement, the Women of the Wall and others who seek to pray according to their egalitarian and pluralistic traditions.

A Contemporary Zionist Agenda, including Aliyah, Hebrew and Zionist Education — A vote for **MERCAZ** is a vote for keeping Zionism relevant in the 21st Century as exemplified by the 2004 MERCAZ-initiated revision of the Jerusalem Program. **MERCAZ USA** supports a pro-active policy to combat anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism, encourages Aliyah from all countries, champions the partnership between the Jewish Agency and Nefesh B’Nefesh and opposes all attempts to restrict the Law of Return. We also call for the strengthening of Jewish/Zionist education in the United States and throughout the world, including increasing the number of shlichim to college campuses and Jewish youth movements. We recognize the vital importance of Hebrew as a means of conveying Jewish culture and identity and are committed to joining with others to revitalize Hebrew language instruction and culture in the United States and throughout the world.

A Negotiated Two-State Settlement between Israel and the Palestinians — A vote for **MERCAZ** is a vote of support for a two-state solution – one Jewish and one Palestinian Arab – that is the declared policy of the current Israeli prime minister and of every other Israeli administration for the past ten years. These policies, based on the principles of territorial compromise, appropriate security arrangements and an explicit recognition of Israel as the nation state of the Jewish people, will preserve Israel as a Jewish and democratic state. We support the government’s decision to launch this past summer’s operation against Hamas and back its insistence on Gaza’s demilitarization as a condition to reconstruction. We expect the Palestinian Authority to fulfill its commitment to confiscate terrorist weapons, prepare its people to accept the right of Jewish statehood and stop incitement against Israel in its media, mosques and school textbooks.

Pro-Active Concern for Israel’s Environment — A vote for **MERCAZ** is a vote for strengthening good governance and ecologically sound “green” policies within the Jewish National Fund/Keren Kayemet L’Yisrael as have been championed for the past decade by our MERCAZ representatives on the JNF/KKL Board of Directors. While mindful of the need to maintain development and security to meet Israel’s needs in the 21st century, we urge more resources be dedicated for river restoration, mass transportation options and recycling projects and support the maintenance of policies aimed at preventing Israel’s limited irreplaceable natural and water resources and green spaces from being sacrificed for low density housing projects and unnecessary highway construction.

Support for the Conservative/Masorti Movement — A vote for **MERCAZ** is a vote for strengthening the Conservative/Masorti Movement in Israel and throughout the world. We call for increasing the Jewish Agency’s “Stream Funding” to bolster the institutions of Masorti Judaism in Israel — the Masorti Movement, Schechter Institute, TALI Schools and Fuchsberg Center— and the allocations from the WZO’s Pluralism Unit to build Masorti Olami communities in South America, Europe, Ukraine and elsewhere around the world. **MERCAZ** also calls for enhanced funding to support North American Conservative programs in Israel, such as USY’s Israel Pilgrimage, Camp Ramah’s Israel Seminar, Schechter Day School Network Israel trips and the United Synagogue’s NATIV and Conservative Yeshiva.

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Represents the Israeli Masorti Movement, Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, TALI School Development Fund, NOAM Youth Movement, MAROM Student/Young Adult Movement, Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center and Kibbutz Hannaton; and, is

Affiliated with **MERCAZ OLAMI** and the other **MERCAZ** chapters in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Mexico, Netherlands, Russia, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Uruguay.