

Background info on WZC

What is the World Zionist Congress?

The World Zionist Congress (WZC) is a central nongovernmental institution in Israel. Often called “The Parliament of the Jewish People,” the WZC convenes every five years to bring together representatives from Jewish communities around the world to decide on key issues affecting the Jewish people in Israel and globally. The Congress elects the leadership that sets policies and influences the allocation of significant funding of about \$1 billion annually. It plays a crucial role in supporting activities worldwide which promote Jewish identity and combat antisemitism.

The World Zionist Congress represents these institutions:



WZO - World Zionist Organization

\$80M+

Policies:

Connects World Jewry
Israel Education
Fights Antisemitism



JAFI – Jewish Agency

\$500M+

People:

Manages Aliyah
Sends Shlichim
Relief for victims of terror
Small business loans



KKL/JNF – Jewish National Fund

\$1B+

Land:

Owens 13% of private land
Develops and protects land,
water, trees
Uses \$\$ from land sale and lease
for Israel and The Jewish People

Background info on WZC (cont.)

Representation in the WZC determines the allocation of funds to groups such as Israel's Reform Movement



Why is the WZC important to the Reform Movement in Israel?

While the Reform Movement is the largest Jewish denomination in North America, we are a minority in Israel of just 8% – partly due to the lack of government funding in comparison to Orthodox communities. Your votes bring funds that are crucial to survive, thrive, and further our core values of democracy, freedom, pluralism, and security and champion a different vision of what it means to be Jewish in the Jewish State.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 2020

FUNDING

\$25M to Reform Movement organizations around the world

- \$6M to Israeli Reform Movement in last 5 years

PROGRAMS for REFORM

Support for ARZA, HUC, Heller High, Israel education, NFTY Israel Trips and Fellows

SHARED SOCIETY

Bomb shelters

Support for evacuees

Hostage Forum Support

Received Abraham Initiative Award

CONNECTION

>1500 Israeli counselors in URJ camps

Shlichim and *shin-shinim* in our communities

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE 2020 (cont.)

DECISION-MAKING

Senior positions for Reform leaders in the WZO, Jewish Agency and KKL/JNF

WATCHDOG

- Defend democracy; ensure transparency
- Limit JNF activity in West Bank



WZO - World Zionist Organization

Gusti Yehoshua Braverman
Head of Diaspora Affairs



JAFI – Jewish Agency

Yaron Shavit
Deputy Chair



KKL/JNF – Jewish National Fund

Yair Lootsteen
Vice Chair



Challenge from extremist groups

- Our opponents, the ultra-orthodox organizations, won a large number of seats in the WZC in 2020 and are trying to consolidate and increase their power in 2025.
- Unless more Reform voters vote in the 2025 election, the ultra-Orthodox slate will increase their power in the WZC and threaten Israel's democracy. They support Israel becoming a theocracy governed by a strict interpretation of the Torah, which would make Israel a pariah state, leaving none of us safe anywhere in the world.
- Extremist groups want to:

EXTREMISTS SEEK TO CANCEL US	
Strip	Strip Israeli Reform clergy and communities of their rights and funding
Reject	Reject Reform and Conservative conversions and question the authenticity of our children's Jewish identity
Abuse	Abuse and misuse funding for West Bank expansion
Demand	Demand gender segregation in Israeli society
Roll Back	Roll back gains for religious pluralism, gender equality, LGBTQ+ rights
Undermine	Undermine Israel's democracy with anti-democratic and racist policies

