

Getting Ready for Your J Street Interview | A guide for candidates

We want you to walk into your interview feeling ready and confident. This guide will not tell you exactly what we will ask, but it will help you understand what we are looking for and how to prepare so you can show us your best thinking.

Know Who We Are

- Spend real time on J Street's website, recent statements, and current relevant news events before your interview.
- Understand what makes J Street distinct from other organizations.
- If you are interviewing for a specific program area, such as fundraising, communications, public affairs, or policy, learn about that team in advance

What Separates a Strong Interview From a Generic One

- Be specific, not generic. Saying you care about peace and justice could be said by almost anyone. Naming a specific J Street position or moment that resonated with you shows that you connect to our issue on a deeper level.
- Be ready to explain not just that you like our mission, but why our particular organization, compared to other organizations, matters to you.
- Keep your answers focused. Long, meandering answers read as unprepared even when the content is good. Aim to answer the actual question first, then add detail if there is time. Keep in mind, an interview can tell about a future interaction you will have with your relevant stakeholders.
- If you are asked about something you do not know well, whether that is a current event, a legislative fight, or a specific tool, it is better to say so honestly and show how you would approach learning it than to guess vaguely.

Common Question Themes to Think Through Ahead of Time

These are areas we tend to explore, not exact questions or a script to memorize.

- Why you chose J Street, specifically, and why now
- What you know about our current priorities
- Describe J Street's role and niche to someone unfamiliar with the organization
- A specific piece of our work that stood out to you and why
- How your past experience connects to the work of this particular role
- Your comfort discussing current Israel and foreign policy debates

Fundraising or Development Roles

- Be ready to describe how you would actually research a donor or prospect and build a real connection, not just that you have relationship-building experience. Mention any tools or methods you have used before, even informally.
- Think about what you would want to learn in a first meeting with a donor, and how you would build a real connection rather than a transactional ask.
- If your fundraising experience is limited, it is fine to say so directly. What matters is that you can describe a clear, thoughtful process for building relationships and point to transferable experience, even outside formal fundraising.
- Talking About Politics and Current Events
- Follow news relevant to our work. You do not need to share personal political opinions, but you should be able to discuss the landscape knowledgeably.

A Few Practical Tips

- Use real examples from your own experience. A specific story is almost always more convincing than a general statement.
- Practice saying your answers out loud once beforehand, and come with a few real questions of your own tied to what you have learned about the role.
- It is okay to pause and think before answering. A short pause and a focused answer is better than jumping in with something broad.

Before You Go

We are not looking for perfect answers. We are looking for people who have done real thinking about who we are and how they would contribute. Passion and connection are weighed just as much as relevant experience. Take this seriously as a chance to prepare, and it will show.



The Political Home for Pro-Israel, Pro-Peace, Pro-Democracy Americans