



Street

Fall National Leadership Summit

October 24–26, 2026 | Atlanta, GA

PROGRAM

PLEASE NOTE: ALL SUMMIT EVENTS ARE OFF-THE-RECORD

None of the proceedings should be recorded for public release of any kind, including transcribing, or posting audio or video files. You can use social media to acknowledge your presence at the Summit, but you may not divulge speaker names or attribute quotes or content to them.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

ALL DAY

Resources for Shabbat Services in Atlanta

While J Street will not have official Shabbat programming, we are happy to help coordinate Shabbat plans. Contact Emily Kaiman, emily.kaiman@jstreet.org for more information.

8:00am–3:00pm

On-Site Registration

EPICUREAN THEATRE FOYER

8:00–9:00am

Grab and Go Breakfast

EPICUREAN THEATRE

8:00am–3:00pm *Launches at 9:00am & Noon*

Optional: Get Out the Vote, Regional Canvassing Headquarters

EPICUREAN THEATRE

Join us for canvassing in Atlanta, supporting Senator Jon Ossoff and competitive state House races. We'll help mobilize voters and encourage early voting ahead of Election Day. No prior canvassing experience necessary!

While our preference is for you to attend a formal launch time, if you cannot make one of the times due to travel or other arrangements, we understand! Please stop by when you can and someone will be onsite to assist you in gathering materials and receiving the pre-canvassing training.

10:00am–Noon **Separately Ticketed Event*

Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum Tour

441 John Lewis Freedom Pkwy NE, Atlanta, GA 30307

Take the opportunity to visit the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum, a landmark dedicated to the life, presidency and legacy of the 39th President of the United States. This optional self-guided tour provides an in-depth look into President Carter's time in office, achievements and his lifelong commitment to humanitarian work. Guests will explore exhibits featuring historical documents, personal artifacts and multimedia presentations that highlight key moments in modern US history.

Bus services to and from the museum will be provided. Bus departure to the Carter Museum is at 9:30am from the Epicurean.

7:30–9:00pm

Optional: Welcome Happy Hour & Night Cap

THE OFFICE BAR 1105 W Peachtree St NW, Atlanta GA, 30309

Close out your Saturday evening at the J Street National Leadership Summit with an optional Welcome Happy Hour & Night Cap. After a full day of canvassing or exploring Atlanta, join fellow attendees for a relaxed, informal setting to unwind, debrief the day and continue connections over drinks.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

11:00am–6:30pm

Registration & Check-in

GRAND CRU BALLROOM FOYER

11:00am–4:00pm *Launches at Noon & 3:00pm*

Optional: Get Out the Vote, Regional Canvassing Headquarters

MAJESTIC

Join us for canvassing in Atlanta, supporting Senator Jon Ossoff and competitive state House races. We'll help mobilize voters and encourage early voting ahead of Election Day. No prior canvassing experience necessary!

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Noon–2:00pm **Separately Ticketed Event*

National Center for Civil and Human Rights Museum Tour

100 Ivan Allen Jr. Blvd NW, Atlanta GA, 30313

Enhance your J Street National Leadership Summit experience with an optional self-guided visit to the National Center for Civil and Human Rights Museum, a powerful cultural institution dedicated to exploring the history of civil rights movements in the United States and global human rights struggles. This add-on, off-site tour offers an opportunity to engage with immersive exhibits, first hand accounts and historic artifacts that illuminate pivotal moments in the ongoing pursuit of justice and equality. Guests will gain deeper context around the people, events and movements that have shaped civil and human rights history.

Bus services to and from the museum will be provided. Bus departure to the museum is at 11:30am from the Epicurean.

Noon–4:00pm

Optional: Get Out the Vote Phone Bank

LORING

Join us for phone banking! We'll spend some time connecting with voters, having conversations and helping build momentum for the midterms. No prior experience necessary, and feel free to drop in anytime during the window!

4:00–5:15pm

National Advisory Council / Board Session

CORONET

All NAC Members and Board Members are encouraged to attend.

6:00–8:00pm

Welcome Dinner Reception

SKY TERRACE LAWN

Join us at our Welcome Dinner Reception to kick off our National Leadership Summit! A full reception-style dinner will be served.

8:00–9:00pm **Separately Ticketed Event*

J Street National Leadership Summit PAC Event

JStreetPAC is thrilled to invite you to the marquee political event of our Fall Summit: our Fight to the Finish fundraiser. As we enter the final days of the 2026 midterms, we're bringing together supporters to rally behind a slate of House candidates running in some of the most competitive races in the country. These races could determine control of the House, and these candidates will need the resources to get across the finish line.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

7:30am–4:30pm

Registration & Check-in

GRAND CRU BALLROOM FOYER

7:30–8:30am

Breakfast & Senior Staff Roundtables

GRAND CRU BALLROOM FOYER & BALLROOM

Join J Street Senior Staff for informal discussions about their work.

8:30–10:15am

OPENING PLENARY: The Moment We're In & What Comes Next

GRAND CRU BALLROOM

We gather in Atlanta at a moment of profound consequence — for democracy in the United States, for Israel and for the Middle East. It is also a time of profound opportunity for the American Jewish community to contribute to what comes next. J Street President Jeremy Ben-Ami will open our Summit with remarks outlining the stakes before us and J Street's significant role in shaping the political and policy direction of the United States. Jeremy will then host a conversation with Senator Jon Ossoff, a longtime J Street champion now seeking reelection in one of the country's most consequential Senate races.

We then turn to the issues defining the region. With Israeli elections taking place the very next day — among the most consequential in the country's history — our first panel will break down the state of play, what the coalition bargaining ahead could look like, what a post-Netanyahu government might stand for and what role Jewish-Arab political partnership could play in shaping Israeli democracy's next chapter.

A second panel will assess the transformed regional landscape in the Middle East, from the impact of the US-Iran War and its unresolved aftermath to the ongoing deadlock in Gaza. Together, we will examine what American policy must look like in response.

10:30–11:45am • BREAKOUT BLOCK ONE

The Final Stretch: Election Night Expectations

EPICUREAN THEATRE

J Street's Fall National Leadership Summit comes just a week before the critical midterm elections. With so many races on the map this cycle, it can be hard to keep track of polling numbers, fundraising and spending totals and on-the-ground updates from campaign teams. In this session, we'll cut through the noise and discuss our expectations for election night and what we're hearing from our partner campaigns.

The Future of Palestine: Gaza, Elections & the US-Palestinian Relationship

LORING

In a fall season punctuated by key elections in the United States, Israel and possibly Palestine, the future of Palestine hangs in the balance. In Gaza, 1.7 million Palestinians continue to live in tent camps as reconstruction stalls over the Netanyahu government's demand that Hamas fully disarm. In the West Bank, daily settler violence and a surge in settlement construction threaten to permanently close the door on Palestinian statehood. But could the tides soon turn? A panel of experts will break down the latest developments in Gaza, long-delayed Palestinian elections and how a political shift in Jerusalem might — or might not — alter realities in Gaza and the West Bank. Could new Palestinian leaders unify Gaza and the West Bank, create a credible partner for peace and revive the promise of statehood? What role should Washington play in rebuilding the US-Palestinian relationship?

The State of Israeli Law: Rights, Judicial Independence and the Occupation

MAJESTIC

A moderated conversation with Emily Schaeffer Omer-Man to discuss the state of the legal system in Israel, the legal framework of the occupation and judicial independence in Israel and the United States. This session will also serve to launch the J Street National Lawyers' Network.

Israel at the Ballot Box: Lessons From Civil Society Leaders

CORONET

Israel's recent elections are sure to be among the most consequential in the country's history. For many Israelis, they represented the first real opportunity since October 7 to hold the current government accountable — not only for the failures that preceded the attack, but for the damage its policies have done to Israel's democracy and international standing. Given the stakes, civil society groups — from protest movement leaders to shared society activists — undertook an unprecedented mobilization effort to drive turnout for the pro-democracy camp. From organizing flights for diaspora Israelis to Jewish-Arab voter mobilization on the ground, their efforts will certainly have a significant impact on the election outcome. A panel of civil society leaders will explain how they did it, where Israeli politics goes from here and what lessons pro-democracy activists in the United States can learn.

Bridging Two Conversations: When Washington Moves Faster Than the Jewish Community

CAROGEM

The political conversation around Israel and US policy has shifted dramatically over the past several years. In Congress — particularly among Democratic policymakers, but increasingly among Republicans — and across the broader public, debates and positions that once seemed outside the mainstream have become increasingly common. Many Jewish communal institutions, however, continue to move at a different pace, shaped by institutional relationships, congregational dynamics, donor considerations and concerns about communal consensus. J Street operates at the intersection of these two worlds, as both a political advocacy organization and a national Jewish communal organization. What does this growing gap mean for J Street's work? How do we lead within the Jewish community while engaging effectively in a rapidly-changing political environment? And how can rabbis, lay leaders, advocates and communal professionals help bridge — and ultimately shape — the conversation between Washington and the Jewish community?

11:45am–1:00pm

All Attendee Lunch

SKY TERRACE LAWN

1:15–2:30pm • BREAKOUT BLOCK TWO

Welcome to the 120th Congress: Opportunities & Challenges Ahead

MAJESTIC

In four months, Congress will swear in a new class of freshmen, returning incumbents and a new set of leadership against the backdrop of profoundly different dynamics surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This new Congress will be tasked with reevaluating the US-Israel security relationship as the 2016 MOU comes to an end, while also having the opportunity to reestablish the US-Palestinian relationship.

Congress faced persistent challenges during the 119th Congress related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the horrors of October 7 and the war in Gaza. While the Trump Administration put together one peace deal and ceasefire agreement after another, it also decimated the agency infrastructure needed to uphold those agreements and repeatedly became distracted by new battle lines, most notably Iran. At the same time, we saw the US-Israel relationship fracture to new lows, while sympathy for Palestinians reached new highs.

Slide Toward Annexation

EPICUREAN THEATRE

Over the past four years, the Israeli government has pursued a systematic policy aimed at deepening Israeli control of the West Bank and advancing de facto and de jure annexation. This includes expanding settlements, establishing new outposts, expelling Palestinian communities, seizing Palestinian land and structural changes to West Bank governance. Settler violence has also skyrocketed, while the IDF often stands idly by, and the Israeli government refuses to crack down on it. The international community has had enough and recently, led by the UK, a number of countries announced trade bans and targeted sanctions on Israeli settlements. This panel will examine the current reality in the West Bank, how this reality came to be and what can be done to halt or roll back Israeli annexation.

Don't Let Them Get Away: Turning Interest into Involvement

LORING

Congratulations! You found someone interested in getting involved with J Street. Now what do you do? You're not the only one asking this question. There are many ways for newcomers to get involved, but the pathways aren't always obvious. Sometimes, there are so many options that the answer is hard to pin down. Join this session to hear fellow leaders' stories of successful engagement with new supporters and discover the pathways your chapter can use to grow your community of active J Street members. Come away from this session with a 'next steps' card.

The Fight to Protect the Vote

CORONET

With Republican efforts to undermine election integrity, misinformation running rampant on social media and newly-imposed voting restrictions, election protection efforts have never been more important. As we head into the final days before Election Day, this session will break down what election protection looks like on the ground, where the vote is most at risk and what our partners are doing to safeguard the vote.

Building the Next Generation of J Street Leadership

CAROGEM

Young people are navigating Israel/Palestine in a landscape that looks nothing like it did a decade ago — and it's reshaping what leadership development has to look like, too. In this session, we'll look at these changing dynamics and unveil our new model for J Street U — moving beyond chapter-building to center student leadership development. We'll also discuss our emerging focus on young professionals as the next frontier in cultivating the movement's future leaders.

2:45–4:30pm

Closing Plenary: Building Power, Shaping Policy

GRAND CRU BALLROOM

The afternoon plenary brings together the political, policy and coalition-building threads that sit at the heart of J Street's work. We will explore how J Street issues on the campaign trail have played a role in the 2026 electoral landscape and what the trends from this midterm cycle mean for the road to 2028.

From there, we turn to the US-Israel relationship: where things stand, what the key pressure points are and what a different American approach could look like going forward. J Street Senior Vice President and Chief Policy Officer Ilan Goldenberg will present J Street's evolving policy agenda and the priorities that will define our advocacy in the year ahead.

We close with a conversation on Black-Jewish partnership and civil rights — a discussion with particular resonance here in Atlanta, a city that sits at the intersection of these two great traditions of American democratic struggle. From the synagogues bombed for supporting the civil rights movement to the coalitions being built today, we will explore what genuine partnership looks like, why it matters now more than ever and how J Street can be part of strengthening it.

4:45–6:30pm

Break

6:30–9:00pm **Separately Ticketed Event*

J Street Georgia Annual Event

After the main Summit program wraps up, cap off the day by joining us for the J Street Georgia Annual Event, where you'll celebrate with the J Street Georgia community alongside fellow Summit attendees from across the country. This year's event will honor Scott Rafshoon, former Chair of the J Street Georgia Steering Committee and a longtime leader in the Atlanta Jewish community. This optional, separately ticketed evening showcases the strength and impact of the J Street Georgia chapter while welcoming national leaders to take part. Together, we'll celebrate the continued growth of the J Street Georgia community and reaffirm our shared commitment to protecting democracy in both the United States and Israel and advancing a pro-Israel, pro-peace, pro-democracy future.