



2022 Israeli Election Response Resource:
What Communal Leaders Are Saying
as of Nov 3, 2022

- **Yohanan Plesner, President, Israel Democracy Institute**
“[The future government coalition] is poised to propose a series of reforms that would seek to politicize the judiciary and weaken the checks and balances that . . . serve as fundamental components of Israeli democracy.”
- **Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President, Union for Reform Judaism**
“[Ben Gvir’s potential inclusion in a governing coalition is] disastrous to the deep relationship between Israel and the United States. . . . We talk about shared values? If the shared values become racism – I dread that day, and I pray that that day will not come. . . . Jewish leaders – who always raise a moral voice when it comes to Israel’s legitimate place on Earth, and its importance in Jewish identity – must not forget core commitments of what it means to be Jewish.”
- **Susie Gelman, Board Chair, Israel Policy Forum**
“The idea that we should silently observe Ben Gvir’s rise from afar and deal with whatever emerges is at odds with the concerns expressed by our Israeli friends about American Jewish distancing from Israel. It also perpetuates the outdated notion that to be pro-Israel is to support anything and everything that emanates from the Jewish state and that to do otherwise shows no respect for Israeli democracy. The stake that we have in Israel’s future, in its success, and in its robustness as a US ally driven by shared values makes Ben Gvir a problem not only for Israelis but for us, too.”
- **JCRC of San Francisco**
“While the voters of Israel have spoken and election results must be respected, JCRC is concerned about the growing presence of the far-right Religious Zionism party in the new Knesset. . . . Such an openly racist and antidemocratic faction has no place in an Israeli governing coalition.”
- **USCJ and The Rabbinical Assembly**
“We are . . . committed to calling out hatred and supremacist ideologies wherever they manifest, even if it comes from an Israeli government official. . . . We expect every Israeli government to uphold and strengthen democracy, treat all people with respect for their political and human rights, and engage the diversity of the Jewish community in Israel and the diaspora.”
- **Anti-Defamation League**
“As an organization deeply committed to Israel’s security and well-being as a Jewish and democratic state, we believe that including these far-right individuals and parties in an Israeli government would run counter to Israel’s founding principles, and impact its standing, even among its strongest supporters.”
- **Avital Grinberg, President, European Union of Jewish Students**
“On a daily basis, Jewish students around the world, including in Europe, are facing increasing antisemitism and anti-zionist sentiments . . . The rise of the far-right and their potential participation in the next Israeli government will further embolden and empower such statements and will have a direct effect on Jewish students in the diaspora.”



- **Rabbi Eric Yoffie, Former URJ President**

“If Israel is to maintain American support in these dangerous and uncertain times, it must do so in the traditional way: as a fully democratic, proudly Jewish state – tied to Democrats and Republicans alike, committed to human rights and to the values that bind the countries and the peoples of America and Israel. . . . This can never happen if semi-fascists like Ben-Gvir and his crew sit in Israel’s cabinet and make the decisions that determine Israel’s fate.”

- **Yossi Klein Halevi, Senior Fellow, Shalom Hartman Institute**

“The Israeli far right and the anti-Zionist left are united in their contempt for Israel’s heroic struggle for balance. Ben Gvir would abandon that struggle and turn us into a state driven by hatred and vengeance and justified by messianic bombast.”

- **Dr. Sara Yael Hirschhorn, Research Fellow, ADL Center for Antisemitism Research**

“Now is the time to express loud, undivided, and unapologetic rejection/horror of Ben-Gvir, Smotrich, & Co. The Diaspora days of ‘don’t air dirty laundry’ are over.”