

World Zionist Congress Update
A Message from Rabbi Josh Weinberg VP of URJ and director of ARZA

Shalom Haverim/ot:

We want to express our deep gratitude to all those who worked tirelessly in this campaign. We displayed an unbelievable effort in getting out the vote, in our visibility within our congregations and organizations. We could not be more pleased with how our Movement responded and was engaged and everyone had a part in our victory.

Special thanks go to our chair Harry Levy, Rabbis Beth and Jonathan Singer our Rabbinic Co-chairs, and Gary Perlin, and all of our lay leaders, Alex Gilbert our Campaign Director, and to Molly Blumenthal, from our ARZA team and to all of the leaders for their tremendous effort and their ability to mobilize our entire Movement. We feel very strongly about the wonderful partnership and joint efforts between our umbrella Reform Zionist Organization Arzenu - Reform and Progressive Religious Zionists and the leadership of our Israeli Reform Movement - IMPJ, and our strong partnership with the WUPJ.

We look forward to continuing our activism, mobilization and joint work on behalf of Israel and the value we hold so dearly. I look forward to discussing further during today's CCAR Connect business session!

Today Rabah,
Josh Weinberg

THE RESULTS OF THE 2020 WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS ELECTIONS

ARZA/Vote Reform and Reconstructionist Movement was the clear winner. Nearly 10,000 votes ahead of the nearest slate. We are the largest Zionist party in the U.S. and that was made clear and should not be taken for granted.

ARZA/Vote Reform increased its vote by nearly 50%, adding 10,000 new voters. That is especially impressive since we had the most votes last time.

Israel is important to our Movement and our people deeply care about seeing a Jewish and democratic Israel that cares about the issues of pluralism, equality, and freedom.

ARZA/Vote Reform is positioned to lead a powerful progressive bloc. Adding Mercaz (Conservative Movement) and Hatikvah (The Progressive Bloc), the block has over 54,000 votes or about 45% of the total.

We are troubled and concerned by the nature of the Eretz Hakodesh slate's entire campaign and their results because of their continued violation of election rules including their use of degrading, denigrating and clearly false attacks on our slate, and will seek appropriate action.

The overwhelming increase in overall voting (more than twice the vote of 5 years ago) is a very positive sign. It reflects the increased recognition by American Jews of the importance of the World Zionist Congress and the National Institutions in Israel. That is a crucial foundation to build on in the future.

The total 2020 US World Zionist Congress Election preliminary vote count is 123,629.