
ACTION NEEDED: Write Burlington City Council before vote on pro-BDS, anti-Israel resolution SEPT 13

Temple Sinai,

On September 13, *between Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur*, the Burlington City Council will be voting on a pro-BDS, strongly anti-Israel resolution (below). This would make Burlington the first municipality in New England to endorse BDS. The resolution also calls for an end to U.S. security assistance to Israel, our only democratic ally in the Middle East.

While our community welcomes people with a range of opinions on this topic, Temple Sinai's Vision statement includes: "*We believe that support for a safe and prosperous State of Israel is an important part of our Jewish identity,*" and our board has voted in the past not to cooperate with organizations that support BDS. Rabbi Edleson has been active for decades in Reform Zionist movements and believes there is a strong antisemitic impulse behind BDS and that many classic tropes of antisemitism are evident in BDS's worldview, rhetoric, and attempts to reduce a complex issue into emotional slogans blaming only Jews. Every major mainstream Jewish organization, including J-street oppose BDS (and so does Bernie!). The Reform Movement is proudly Zionist, and while critical of Israeli policies and actions in the West Bank, strongly opposes BDS. The CCCAR (Reform Rabbis) has condemned BDS. The ADL believes BDS to frequently cross the line into antisemitism. .

If you want to express your opposition to this resolution, here is what can you do to oppose the resolution:

- **Write or send an email** to the Burlington City Council and encourage them to vote NO on this harmful and divisive resolution. We need to send as many emails as possible, so forward this information to any Vermonters you know that

would support it. You can email all 12 City Councilors at once at citycouncil@burlingtonvt.gov.

- **Come on September 13 at 7:00pm** to the Burlington City Council meeting and be prepared to speak directly to the Council during the public forum, which begins at 7:30pm. Your presence also will serve as show of support for those who speak in opposition to this resolution. *(Please note that speakers generally are provided 2 to 3 minutes to speak – so be prepared to get your points across in as little as 2 minutes. Please be sure to sign up to speak when you enter Contois Auditorium in City Hall.)*
- **Share this with any friends of family in Vermont, and especially in Burlington.**

Below are links to:

1. **The Resolution before the Council,**
2. **Counterpoints to the Resolution**
3. **Sample texts and points for your emails to the City Council,**
4. **The CCAR's Resolution condemning BDS**
5. **ADL's short explanation of BDS and points against it**
6. **David Hirsh's article on why BDS is antisemitic**

[The Resolution](#)

[Counterpoints to Resolution](#)

[Sample Points and Emails](#)

[Reform Rabbis Resolution
Condemning BDS](#)

[ADL on BDS](#)

[Dr. David Hirsh \(U. of London\) on Why
BDS is AntiSemitic](#)