

Dear Interfaith Clergy Leaders,

Jewish communities have a long tradition of civic engagement. Our responsibility goes beyond voting – it includes showing up, advocating, and engaging. At Temple Beth Shalom, our non-partisan TBS Protects Democracy initiative has a strong focus on election integrity. We are committed to ensuring the 2026 mid-term elections are safe and accessible to all citizens, regardless of race, religion, birthplace, or economic status. Every eligible voter should be able to participate without barriers.

As we lean into the important work of preparing for the November elections, we ask you to join us in this vital work. Dozens of TBS members have already volunteered in a variety of election-related actions. Many congregants have been sending postcards as part of the Every Voice, Every Vote campaign. Others have volunteered with the Needham Town Clerk's Office to help process mail-in votes and work at the polls on election day or have trained with the national, nonpartisan Election Protection coalition to ensure that all eligible voters encounter a smooth process at the polls.

We hope many of your congregants will find something in this work that speaks to them and will join with TBS Protects Democracy to get involved – whether it's committing to vote or helping to support the process.

We urge all eligible Needhamites to take our pledge to vote in November. And, remember, there is still time to ensure that your young adult children are registered to vote where they currently live, or have a plan to vote absentee. At TBS we have set a goal of 75% voter participation!

And while we're voting here in Massachusetts, let's not forget about our northern neighbors. New Hampshire and Maine have particularly important races with national implications. For those that may have family, friends or acquaintances in New Hampshire and Maine, please send them the following non-partisan information and encourage them to register and vote:

For Maine: <https://www.lwvme.org/VoteInMaine>

For NH: <https://lwvnh.org/register/>

We are happy to help you embark on this vital initiative within your congregations. We plan to attend your September meeting to answer questions and to hear what you are doing.

Thanks in advance for your participation.

Marlene Schultz
Temple Beth Shalom Voter Integrity Initiative.