



## WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION ELECTIONS

### WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

*The following FAQ's may help you make sense about these very important elections for the health of liberal Judaism in Israel.*

#### **What is ARZA?**

ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America, is the Zionist arm and voice of the Reform Movement and an affiliate of the Union for Reform Judaism, serving 1.5 million Reform Jews in North America.

ARZA is the Reform movement's vehicle for the engagement of American Reform Jews with Israel.

#### **How does ARZA help Reform Judaism in Israel?**

ARZA provides the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism (IMPJ) and the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC) with financial support generated through membership dollars. ARZA represents Reform Judaism in the World Zionist Organization thereby providing American and Israeli Reform Jews with a powerful voice in this worldwide organization.

#### **What is the World Zionist Organization?**

The World Zionist Organization (WZO) was founded by Theodor Herzl at the First Zionist Congress in Basel in 1897. Today it chooses representatives for The Jewish Agency for Israel, the Jewish National Fund, and other affiliates. The WZO utilizes the World Zionist Congress to establish its policies and internally elect leadership to the bodies which define executive policy, departmental direction, and budget decisions.

#### **What is the World Zionist Congress?**

The Zionist Congress is the World Zionist Organization's supreme institution and legislative body which meets every four years in Jerusalem. The Congress determines policy, courses of action, and chooses the leadership of the World Zionist Organization. These decisions influence hundreds of millions of dollars in funding and paid portfolios. The Congress also makes decisions which affect the status of Reform Jews in Israel as well as the funding available to Progressive Jews in Israel.

#### **What is Reform Jews 4 Israel?**

***Reform Jews 4 Israel*** is the campaign to encourage American Reform Jews to vote for the ARZA slate in the upcoming World Zionist Congress Elections. Voting begins on January 15, 2015 and runs until April 30, 2015. ARZA is managing the campaign on behalf of the Reform movement. You should pledge to vote at [www.ReformJews4Israel.org](http://www.ReformJews4Israel.org)

#### **Why is this important?**

The composition of the American delegation is important to Reform Jews in the United States and Israel because the American delegation of 145 delegates is the largest delegation from outside of Israel to the Congress. The decisions of the Congress influence hundreds of millions of dollars in funding, over \$4 million of which is currently allocated to the Reform movement each year.

#### **What is the exact process for voting?**

Voting takes place between January 15th and April 30th 2015. We will have exact details for you soon. At this point, we know that you must register with the American Zionist Movement. The registration fee is \$10.00 USD (\$5.00 USD for those under age 30), and goes directly to the AZM – not to ARZA.

#### **Who is eligible to vote?**

To be eligible to vote you must be:

- 1 At least 18 years old by June 30, 2015
- 2 Identify as Jewish

A citizen or permanent resident of the United States of America

#### **How much does voting cost?**

\$10 for age 30+, \$5 for those 18-30.

This charge is to cover the cost of elections. All payments can be made online on the secure voting site or by check.

#### **Do I need to be a member of ARZA to vote?**

NO! Any American Jew of age can vote. One does not need to be affiliated with a synagogue, an organization or ARZA.