



**JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL**  
of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties

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### JCRC Remains Committed to Peace Following Israel's Election

San Francisco, CA – The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), which is non-partisan, congratulates the Israeli people on their active participation in Israel's democracy. The election illustrated the strength of Israel's democratic system – a common bond Israel and the United States share.

The Bay Area organized Jewish community is committed to the creation of two states, a secure Israel existing side-by-side with a Palestinian State in mutually and internationally recognized borders. Many in our community actively work toward this goal through education, advocacy and philanthropy, and will continue to champion realistic efforts to this end. JCRC was deeply troubled by statements made during the Israeli election that seemed to oppose negotiations toward a Palestinian State. Our vision for a just and non-violent resolution culminating in two states also stands in sharp contrast to those who support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel and seek its elimination. We will continue to vigorously oppose that movement whose goal represents the antithesis of peace.

The strong voter turnout – over 70 percent – illustrated that Israelis from all walks of life and every demographic group value the right to choose their government. Increased participation in the election by people from all faiths and ethnic origins is a positive development about which to be proud. We were deeply troubled by the anti-Arab campaigning that stood out as a discordant note in an otherwise well-conducted election. The fact that over 10 percent of the new Knesset will be comprised of Arab members demonstrates the free and pluralistic nature of Israeli society, politics and culture.

There will certainly be challenges ahead. The regional threats, including that of a nuclear Iran, are real and could potentially destabilize the entire Middle East. Strong efforts need to be made to heal recent tensions in American-Israeli relations as our two countries share such common interests and values. As Israel's new governing coalition is formed, we remain deeply committed to Israel's security, quest for peace, and the values that make Israel a Jewish and democratic state.

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