

Declaration of Establishment

West Side Jewish Political Action Committee

San Francisco has always been a city that rebuilds—stronger, prouder, and more united—after every trial. From the great earthquake and fire of 1906 to the Loma Prieta quake of 1989, the City by the Bay has risen again and again. In each of those moments, Jewish San Franciscans stood shoulder-to-shoulder with their neighbors: philanthropists who funded reconstruction, merchants who supplied the recovery, and civic leaders who helped guide the city forward.

Our community's roots run deep. German-Jewish immigrants arrived during the Gold Rush not as speculators but as builders, bringing dry goods, banking expertise, and the mercantile foundation for a lasting Jewish presence. After World War II, thousands of families moved westward across the city, planting synagogues and day schools in the Richmond, Sunset, and Lakeshore neighborhoods. In the 1970s and 1980s, Soviet refuseniks - escaping persecution behind the Iron Curtain - settled along Geary Boulevard, creating the vibrant Russian-speaking enclave still known as "Little Moscow." Together, these waves formed the observant, family-centered, proudly Zionist Jewish community that today distinguishes San Francisco's west side.

For too long, however, the voices of this community have been overlooked in City Hall, Sacramento, and Washington, D.C.

When journalists or elected officials seek "the Jewish perspective," they too often call upon liberal or Reform temple clergy. When policy is shaped on public safety, education, or Israel-related issues, the concerns of observant, conservative, and Orthodox and Hassidic Jews - many who collectively keep kosher, learn Torah, and send their children to private Jewish schools - are rarely heard. Some of the city's most prominent Jewish elected officials, despite their heritage, openly distance themselves from religious practice and traditional, centuries-old values. A handful have even used their Jewish identity as a rhetorical shield while advancing positions that much of our community finds painful or indefensible, especially since the massacre of October 7, 2023, and the surge of global antisemitism that followed.

This is not representation. This is a vacuum. Today we fill that vacuum.

We proudly establish the **West Side Jewish Political Action Committee**, a new voice for the thousands of observant and traditional Jews who live on San Francisco's west side, from The Richmond to The Sunset, from Parkmerced to the Outer Lands.

We count among us those who are shomer-Shabbat families and Hebrew speakers, immigrants and multi-generation San Franciscans, veterans of the IDF and children of Soviet refuseniks. We are the Jews who pray three times a day, who marched for Soviet Jewry and now must march against antisemitism, and who vote in election - and who maintain close ties with family in New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Jerusalem, Paris, Toronto, Johannesburg, Buenos Aires, and beyond.

We believe in family, education, personal responsibility, public safety, and an unapologetic love for the State of Israel. We believe our values deserve a seat at the table.

The West Side Jewish PAC will:

- Research, report, and publicize where candidates and elected officials stand on issues vital to our community
- Endorse and support candidates at the federal level who share our priorities
- Oppose those whose records demonstrate hostility or indifference to Jewish religious practice, public safety, or the security of our Jewish homeland
- Mobilize West side voters and amplify the voices of our religious leaders, educators, and community advocates

San Francisco's current political establishment- Jewish and non-Jewish alike - frequently does not speak for the Jews of the West side. The disconnect is real, and it ends now.

We invite every member of our community to stand with us. Visit **westsidejews.com** for specific opportunities to get involved. Together we will ensure that the traditional and observant Jewish voice is no longer ignored in the city we helped build and continue to sustain.

Am Yisrael Chai.

Richie Greenberg,

Founder

West Side Jewish Political Action Committee

westsidejews.com