

# **RULES FOR THE 2020 UNITED STATES ELECTION TO THE 38<sup>th</sup> WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS**

**As Adopted by the US Area Election AEC Committee on July 29, 2019<sup>1</sup>**

**Amended by AEC September 9, 2019**

## **I. ELIGIBILITY TO REGISTER TO VOTE**

- 1) Any Jewish person, who is or shall be at least eighteen years of age on June 30, 2020, who resides permanently in the United States, and who did not vote in the September 2019 Israel Knesset election, is eligible to vote in the American Zionist election for delegates to the 38<sup>th</sup> World Zionist Congress, which is scheduled to convene in Israel in October 2020.
- 2) Personal registration is required for all voters. Registration will be available on the internet and by mail. The registration form shall require the following information: full name [first name, last name and middle initial (optional)], street address, apartment number (if any), city, state, zip code, email address (if available), preferred telephone number (mobile or home phone), and a statement, affirming that the registrant:
  - a) is Jewish
  - b) will be at least 18 years of age by June 30, 2020
  - c) accepts the Jerusalem Program (to be shown)
  - d) resides permanently in the United States
  - e) did not vote in the September 2019 Israel Knesset election, and
  - f) this is the first and only time the registrant has registered for the 2020 election to the 38<sup>th</sup> World Zionist Congress.
- 3) Votes can be cast electronically or through the mail. All registrations and ballots must be individual. Each voter shall personally certify and attest that the voter meets the requirements described in Section I. 1) and 2) above. Packages or envelopes with multiple registrations or multiple ballots will not be accepted, except as provided under Article II.5.

## **II. REGISTRATION**

- 1) The Central Registry of Voters shall be established by the American Zionist Movement and shall be considered a registry of the U.S. territorial Zionist Federation, as defined by the WZO Constitution, and as referred to in the WZO Rules for the Election of Delegates.

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<sup>1</sup> Concept Adopted at Elections Meeting, October 11, 1993]; [Approved AZM National Board, November 7, 1993]; [Approved in Principle by the AEC on July 23, 1996]; [Approved for CEB Review on December 5, 1996];[Updated for 2002 & 2006 Zionist Elections]; [As Approved by the US Area Election Committee (AECAEC): on November 2, 2009]; [Updated and Approved for 2015 Congress by AEC July 23, 2014]

- 2) To be considered an eligible voter, all required information must be provided. If any information is found to be invalid, the registrant's vote will be voided.
- 3) Registrants must provide a legal, residential address in the United States or its territories. A post office box will be accepted as the mailing address if a physical home street address is also provided. APO and other Military Mail addresses can be used.
- 4) The voter Registration Fee is \$7.50 - payable by credit card, or through PayPal, electronic bank check (e-check), bank debit cards, and other electronic payment methods which can be linked to individuals, or by a personal check. Up to two authorized users of an individual method of payment may register using that same method of payment.
- 5) Paper registration and paper ballots must be individually mailed. Registration forms of up to two family members residing at the same address may be sent in a single envelope, or under a single mailing label, and paid for with a single method of payment or check (if it includes each registrant's printed name on the check). These registrations will be accepted provided: each form is individually completed and personally signed by each registrant; and, the registrant's forms show the same home mailing address and each ballot must be physically attached to a registration form or included together with it in a separate envelope.
- 6) Registration forms, voter information and instructions (online and paper) will be available in English, Russian and Hebrew. The slate names will appear on the voting ballot in English for all voters.
- 7) Beginning January 21, 2020, qualified registrants who register online will have the option of voting immediately upon registering.
- 8) Each qualified registrant will be assigned a unique "ID" number to be used in the voting process.
- 9) An individual voter with a complaint about registration will be afforded a process to submit the complaint to the election company. If the election company is unable to resolve the issue within 7 days of being notified of the problem the complaint will be presented to the Chairman of the Area Election Committee (AEC).
- 10) An organization with a complaint about the registration process or electioneering practices will be provided with a process to present the complaint to the Chairman of the AEC.
- 11) Upon receiving a complaint, the Chairman of the AEC will resolve the issue; or present the complaint to the AEC; or to the Tribunal elected by the American Zionist Movement (AZM); or refer it to the appropriate WZO institution

### **III. QUALIFICATION OF ELECTION SLATES**

- 1) Voters shall cast ballots for slates and not for individual candidates.
- 2) The maximum number of delegates to be elected in the US is 145. In addition, 290 alternates (two per delegate) can participate in the Congress. Each slate can include a maximum of 435 names, representing the total number of delegates and alternates from the United States. Delegates and alternates are determined by position on the slate. A resignation is required to eliminate a candidate before proceeding to the next person on the list. The listed order of candidates shall comply with the requirements in sections 3 c) and d) below.
- 3) All organizations represented in the American delegation to the 37<sup>th</sup> World Zionist Congress, except those that are not in “good standing” in the American Zionist Movement (that is, those not fully current in their payment of dues and penalties as defined by the AZM Constitution and these rules), may participate provided that:
  - a) All organizations participating in a slate must not be more than one quarter in arrears on dues payments by June 30, 2019, and must be fully up-to-date in their dues payments and any penalties (as provided in the AZM Constitution) owed to AZM through fiscal year 2019, no later than September 30, 2019. Any organization that is in default may not run a slate in the election for the 38<sup>th</sup> World Zionist Congress. Prior to the AEC certifying the results of the 2020 vote, organizations must be current with their dues payments to AZM through June 30, 2020.
  - b) Leadership of an organization that (i) elected delegates to the 37<sup>th</sup> World Zionist Congress and (ii) defaulted in the organization’s dues payments to AZM, and (iii) did not correct such default by June 30, 2019, are ineligible to run on any new slate in 2020. Leadership from an organization described in the previous sentence shall mean the organization’s: officers; delegates and alternates elected to the 37<sup>th</sup> World Zionist Congress; and, 2015-2019 AZM board representatives.”
  - c) A minimum of 25% of all slate representatives must be comprised of those who fall between the ages 18-35, as of June 30, 2020 (“young generation”), to be listed on the slate at a minimum of every fourth person.
  - d) The slate must be comprised of 30% female candidates to be accomplished by including at least two women amongst the first five names and at least one woman amongst the next five names in the first ten names on each slate, and continuing that pattern with each subsequent group of ten names. The women should be distributed as equally as possible throughout each group of ten. Each female delegate may also serve as the young generation representative, if she is between the ages of 18-35, as of June 30, 2020.

- e) After the results of the election have become known, the requirements relating to the final allocation of women and young generation delegates will be accomplished by selecting from among those who appear highest on the list in those categories.
- 4) Each participating slate is required to submit the name of its slate; a list of the component organizations of the slate; and the list of nominees for delegates and alternates, in the order they would be elected, no later than October 31, 2019.
- 5) Slate names shall be in English characters and should not create the likelihood of confusion with the name of a current or previously-existing entity (e.g., a slate or organization or political party) that is not affiliated with the slate. If the AEC notifies a slate that its slate name creates the possibility of confusion, such slate shall have 20 days to notify the AEC of a new slate name. If the slate fails to timely select a new name, the AEC shall select the slate's new name.
- 6) All nominees must be registered voters to appear on a slate. A Letter of Assent (written acknowledgement that the nominee agrees to be listed on a slate) must be submitted for each nominee by November 8, 2019 at 12 noon EST.
- 7) New Slates:

Groups not represented in the delegation from the US at the 37<sup>th</sup> Zionist Congress and wishing to participate in the election to the 38<sup>th</sup> Zionist Congress shall send an application to be received by the Area Election Committee no later than June 1, 2019, stating the desire of the group to participate in the election. The letter shall be addressed to Judge Abraham Gafni, Chairman, Area Election Committee, c/o American Zionist Movement, 40 Wall Street, Suite 706, New York, NY 10005 and may be sent to [elections@azm.org](mailto:elections@azm.org).

The application shall:

- a) State the name of the proposed slate and its platform
- b) Describe the unique Zionist philosophy embodied by the slate
- c) State how the slate's participation will advance the Zionist Movement
- d) Express the group's full acceptance of and compliance with the WZO Constitution, the Jerusalem Program and the AZM Constitution
- e) Be accompanied by a \$2,500 check payable to AZM as a filing fee

The Area Election Committee shall consider the application and make a decision regarding an applicant group's principled right to participate by July 1, 2019.

Following the approval of the application, the new slate organizers shall submit by

August 9, 2019, a list of the slate's candidates for election listed in the order they would be elected, consistent with the requirements of Sections III and IV of these Rules to be included on its petition for the right to run in the 2020 US election for the 38<sup>th</sup> World Zionist Congress. New slates are also required to sign a statement indicating that if their group wins delegates to the 38<sup>th</sup> World Zionist Congress they will be expected to incorporate as a non-profit in the US and join the AZM by the end of 2021

- 8) After the information listed in section 6) above has been submitted, beginning August 1, 2019, the slate may begin to collect the requisite 500 signatures reflecting support of the slate's petition and register the signatories as voters.

The petition shall include the name of the new slate, the platform of the new slate (as previously submitted to the Area Election Committee), and the names of its candidates for election in the order they would appear on the party's list of nominees.

- i) Registrants will sign the petition on behalf of the new slate during the early registration process electronically. The Area Election Committee will make online petitions and registration available to new slates that are accepted to run.
  - ii) Candidates must meet the requirements of Section IV.
  - iii) No person may sign a petition for more than one new slate.
  - iv) If the minimum required valid signatures are reached, the slate shall be included on the ballot.
- 9) The signatures of at least 500 valid Registered Voters must be collected by September 27, 2019. After the new slate has obtained 500 valid signatures an additional \$2,500 fee must be paid to AZM no later than September 30, 2019.
  - 10) New slate representatives will be advised by October 31, 2019, whether their slate has met the requirements for participation in the election.
  - 11) By November 15, 2019, final approval will be given to established slates to run.
  - 12) The staff of AZM and the AEC and their legal advisors will stand ready to provide advice and guidance to any person or group aspiring to qualify a new slate and help them conform to the election regulations.

#### **IV. QUALIFICATIONS FOR CANDIDACY**

- 1) Candidates for election as delegates to the World Zionist Congress must be registered to vote and must meet the WZO requirements for election, including having made contributions to both the Jewish National Fund and a local Jewish Federation. Lists shall submit candidates' names, candidates' assent to serve as a delegate, and candidates' Letters of Assent as affirmation of contributions (until

such time when required to submit proofs of contributions) no later than November 8, 2019 at 12 noon EST. In addition, candidates will be required to indicate their gender and whether they will be age 35 or younger by June 30, 2020.

V.

## **VI. THE CASTING AND COUNTING OF BALLOTS**

- 1) The complete list of eligible slates and platforms and the names of people running on each slate, in the order they will be elected, shall appear on a publicly accessible website.
- 2) The election shall be organized such that upon online registration during the standard registration period, the voter may cast his/her vote upon the registration being accepted. If any problem with the registration is found, the vote may be voided.
- 3) An impartial elections agency shall be selected to maintain a secure internet site for the purpose of casting ballots online, to maintain the secure registry of voters, and to tabulate and compile the election results.
- 4) The election shall be designed so that:
  - a) only registrations conforming to the registration rules are processed as valid; and,
  - b) with respect to online registrations, as of January 21, 2020, a voter may register and, upon its successful completion, immediately thereafter cast his or her vote. The voting period will conclude on March 11, 2020.
- 5) A voided payment will invalidate the registration and their vote.
- 6) Individual voters will be provided a process by which they may appeal the process for consideration of circumstances not encompassed by the registration rules.
- 7) Individuals who do not vote immediately upon registration will be required to verify their identity as the registrant before casting a vote.
- 8) The total number of valid votes cast for all nomination lists in the electoral area shall be divided by the number of delegates to be elected and the resulting figure shall be the "election quota."
- 9) The number of votes cast for each slate shall be divided by the election quota and the result, disregarding fractions, shall be the number of delegate seats ("seats") received by the list, prior to the distribution of "remaining votes."

10) The number of “remaining votes” shall be calculated in the following manner:

For each slate:

- a) Multiply the number of seats received by the list by the election quota as defined in Section V8.
  - b) Subtract that number from the total votes received by the slate.
  - c) The resulting figure shall be the “remaining votes.”
- 11) The slates shall be entitled to one additional seat, in the order of the size of the remaining votes, provided there are additional seats to be distributed.

## **VII. CAMPAIGN PRACTICES**

- 1) No slate may alter the internet registration or voting site ,or change its appearance or structure in any way.
- 2) Campaigning will be positive in nature; slates are proscribed from demeaning or denigrating another slate or competing organization by name or inference.
- 3) Violations of this provision may be referred to, or appealed to, the AZM Tribunal for such sanctions as the Tribunal may deem appropriate.
- 4) Commentary regarding positions, platforms, issues, advocacy, statements, and/or activities of other slates and/or their world unions, and/or constituent organizations, is permissible, and does not violate Election Rule VI-2.
- 5) Slates and their agents are prohibited from paying voters' voting fees, and from paying voters to vote in the election and/or for their slates. This rule prohibits payments in cash, cash equivalents and payments via other means, including but not limited to: gift cards, raffle entries (cash or cash equivalent), merchandise, synagogue dues credits, and event entry fees. However, slates may hold events at which voting is encouraged (without remuneration) but not required. Slates shall inform their agents, including member institutions, of this rule. Slates are advised to consult the Chair of the AEC in case of questions regarding this provision.

## **VIII. PUBLICITY**

- 1) Efforts shall be made to inform the American Jewish population about the election, including, but not limited to, through central Jewish institutions such as Jewish Federations, Jewish Community Centers, as well as public and media notifications and distributions, etc.

## **IX. ELECTION SCHEDULE**

- 1) Payment of all dues (and any penalties owed) to American Zionist Movement (AZM):
  - a) Current Slates/Organizations cannot run if more than 1 Quarter in Arrears as of June 30, 2019
  - b) Current Slates/Organizations must be fully paid through calendar year 2019 by September 30, 2019
- 2) New Slates must advise the AEC of their intention to put forward a new slate and pay the initial \$2,500 filing fee to AZM by June 1, 2019. This notice must include the name of the proposed slate and its platform. Slate representatives will be advised by July 1, 2019, whether the slate has been approved in principle. Within 30 days after the AEC approves the slate, an additional \$2,500 must be paid to AZM.
- 3) If approved, the New Slate must, in addition to the slate name and platform, provide the AEC by August 9, 2019 the names of candidates for election in the order they would be elected. The list of candidates must meet the requirements set out in Section IV of the Election Rules.
- 4) New slates may begin to collect supporting signatures as of August 1, 2019. The final Date for submission of 500 signatures in Support of New Slates: September 27, 2019.
- 5) New slate representatives will be advised by October 31, 2019, whether their slate has met the requirements for participation in the election.
- 6) All established slates (other than new slates) must submit by November 8, 2019 at 12 noon EST the following:
  - a) list of the component organizations of the slate;
  - b) platform;
  - c) names of individual slate of candidates in the order they would be elected; and,
  - d) Letters of Assent for each candidate.
- 7) Final approval for established slates and new slates to run: November 15, 2019.
- 8) Registration and Voting starts: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 – 12:01am EST
- 9) Registration and Voting ends: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 – 11:59pm PST



**X.    ELECTION APPEALS**

- 1) Appeals may be made to the Tribunal elected by the AZM and then to the Central Election Board or the Zionist Supreme Court in Jerusalem as provided for in the WZO “Rules for Election of Delegates to the Zionist Congress”.