



*Champions of Progress & Pluralism*

## MERCAZ – THE VOICE OF THE CONSERVATIVE/MASORTI MOVEMENT

MERCAZ USA is the Zionist Organization of the Conservative/Masorti Movement. A vote for MERCAZ is more than just the opportunity to gain delegates to the World Zionist Congress – it is the best opportunity to send a strong message to the Israeli government and people of Israel.

We support strengthening Israel as a Jewish, Zionist, and democratic state, and endeavor to shape it as an exemplary society with a unique moral and spiritual character rooted in the vision of the Hebrew prophets. We envision a society that is democratic and pluralistic, that recognizes and empowers all streams of Jewish practice, and that guarantees the civil and political rights of all of its citizens.

MERCAZ USA stands firmly for the following principles and goals:

1. **An Open Pluralistic Jewish Society** - That celebrates Jewish values and embraces multiple streams of Judaism including the growth of Conservative/Masorti kehillot throughout Israel.
2. **No Restrictions on the Law of Return** - MERCAZ opposes all attempts to restrict the Law of Return by redefining who is a Jew for the purposes of Aliyah.
3. **Governmental Respect for Conservative and Egalitarian Traditions and Practices** – Including Israeli government recognition of life cycle events performed within all recognized streams of Judaism and implementation of the previously accepted agreement with regard to the Western Wall.
4. **Increased Funding for the Conservative/Masorti Movement** – Increasing “stream funding” by the Jewish Agency, World Zionist Organization, and Keren Kayemeth LeYisrael to bolster Conservative/Masorti kehillot, institutions and programs in Israel and throughout the world.
5. **Strengthening the Ties Between American Jews and Israel** - Cultivating programs that connect American Jews and Israel and promoting Aliyah.
6. **Combatting Anti-Semitism and Anti-Zionism** – A pro-active agenda to combat anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism in the United States and around the world.
7. **Achieving Peace** – A negotiated peace settlement between Israel and the Palestinians.
8. **Supporting Israel as a Democratic Ally and Engaged Global Citizen** - As it lends its technology, innovations and assistance in the effort to solve global challenges.