

October 23rd, 2026

Elad Israeli

Director, Government Relations | Israeli-American Council

The information provided here is for educational purposes only and does not constitute an endorsement of any candidate or measure in an upcoming election.

In this blog, we look beyond the headlines to understand how political developments throughout the country affect our Israeli-American community and the issues we all hold dear. Our goal is to provide basic context and foster understanding that encourages greater civic engagement and informs decision-making by our community members.

Let's Meet at 6PM, after the Election(s)

There's a famous quote from the Czech novel *The Good Soldier Švejk*, published roughly a century ago – "we'll meet again at 6pm, after the war".

I thought quite a bit about this specific blog-post, precisely because of its timing. This is my last opportunity to write here prior to two key dates on our calendars – the Israeli Knesset Election on October 27th, and the US Midterm Election on November 3rd. In less than two weeks, and by the time I post here again, we should know (more or less) the outcomes of both.

Much rests on these two dates – for both countries domestically, internationally and particularly for the relationship between them. These are matters that many of us feel very strongly about, have varying opinions on and at times conduct scathing arguments about. One thing is certain – we all care deeply, and we all strive for what each of us sees as a better future for the same peoples, countries, and world.

Emotions are high in Israel, and many feel that we've reached an intersection that will define the future direction of the country in an irreversible way. I see this in the actions of many friends and colleagues – making their way across the Atlantic, spending hard-earned money to cast their one single vote. I also see it in the relative quiet in the Israeli street. After four years filled with protests and anger in much of the country, the nation seems to be holding its breath in this moment.

Here in America, things are just as tense for so many of us. Rising antisemitism in public discourse has normalized hate speech among political influencers and among politicians themselves. Many Jewish Americans feel torn between beliefs they've long held, causes they've long championed, and the politicians who they believe embody these and yet at the same time have turned their backs on them. They feel as if they're being escorted out of their lifelong political home. Acknowledging that carries real pain.

So many of us, members of the Israeli-American community, are living through both hardships at once. Concern for the futures of Israel and America – a country we call home, and a country we still call home. Such experience is unique to immigrant communities like ours. For all we get as part of an incredible tribe, it is a burden we will forever carry, a price paid for our shared love and identity.

The challenges we face will persist regardless of the results we see next Tuesday, or the following one. Some of us will believe, in two weeks' time, that we're better equipped to deal with them. Others will see things as being far worse. The reality is that we will neither be in heaven nor hell. We'll still be right here, continuing to work every day for our children's futures.

Elections are not wars. We can and should care about them deeply. We can and should make our voices heard in the many ways afforded to us by Democracy. We can and should express satisfaction or frustration, at the results we see. We cannot and should not sink to devastation or rise to euphoria. For losers, elections are a chance at reflection, recalibration, reinvention and reengagement. For winners, they're the beginning of a chapter that carries much weight, responsibility and scrutiny. Neither side should see them as a final verdict for their future.

Elections are not wars. Not by a longshot. Those of us, too many, that have felt true pain and anguish know this well enough. Still, I'll paraphrase *Švejk* and suggest that we meet again here, in two weeks' time, at 6pm after the election(s). I look forward to sharing my thoughts on the results, listening to yours, and working together to chart a path forward.

ROCK THE VOTE 2026