



### **A Statement from JALSA Impact**

Towards the end of many Jewish prayer books, there is a prayer for the welfare of our government. How we govern our country, making sure every vote counts – these concepts deeply matter to those of us who believe in the underlying Jewish value of treating every individual with dignity and respect.

The U.S. Constitution tells us how presidential elections should go. People vote. Electors are selected. Congress meets. And then we know who our President and Vice-President will be. The peaceful transfer of power is our accepted norm, the bedrock of our American democratic society.

The certification of electoral votes should be routine, straightforward, procedural. Dare we say it, even a little boring.

Yesterday, we saw that norm challenged in an unprecedented manner with a horrific attack on the Capitol, and on the very foundation of our democracy. Violence, gun shots, elected officials being evacuated and handed gas masks, told to shelter in place with their staff members, journalists, and others who were doing their jobs -- that was the disgrace that people all across our nation and the world watched unfold over the course of agonizing hours.

All this, brought on by a President and the encouragement of some members of his Republican Party, who spent the last few weeks spreading lies about the election, trying to undermine the will of the people, desperately attempting to hold onto power after the American people decisively rejected the last four years of bigotry, racism, and callousness. Let us be clear -- every elected official who supported this Administration's cynical attempts to divide our nation is complicit in yesterday's attack.

Today, perhaps they are questioning themselves. Should they have objected when their leader said that there were "very fine people" on both sides in the Charlottesville march? Or, perhaps when, during the presidential debate, he told hate groups to "stand back and stand by"? Where exactly is the line in the sand when it comes to sanctioning hatred? And, if we look closely, will we see that the protestors yesterday were given much more leeway than those who came out to stand up for racial justice and equality after the brutal murder of George Floyd?

Actions have consequences. We all know that yesterday's far-right attack was the culmination of years of unchecked racism, antisemitism, and hatred spewing from the White House. We also know that the voters in our country said, "enough," and elected Joe Biden and Kamala Harris by record numbers to lead our nation out of this very harrowing time. And, thanks to the voters of Georgia, they will have a Democratic House and Senate with which to work when they take office.

Today, we call on our elected leaders to consider impeaching, removing, and disqualifying Donald Trump from ever running for elected office again.

To all of you who made phone calls, sent texts, and wrote over 165,000 postcards with JALSA Impact this election season – thank you for doing your part to redeem our country. And to our congressional delegation – thank you for doing your duty in the midst of the chaos yesterday. May we never see another day in our country when hatred and division are allowed to pour out into our streets, invade and desecrate the holiest places of our democracy, and threaten to undermine the will of the people to create a nation in which we stand with and for one another.

Larry Bailis, President  
Cindy Rowe, Executive Director

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*The Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action created a 501(c)(4) organization, JALSA Impact, to engage the progressive Jewish community of Massachusetts in out-of-state federal elections and voter registration efforts that will have a big impact across the country. We support candidates willing to fight for justice, dignity, and respect for all people.*