



CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
of the
AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS

As revised and adopted by the Convention, May 29 - June 2, 1946
in New York.

ARTICLE I.

NAME AND PURPOSES

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the American Jewish Congress.

Section 2: The purposes of this organization shall be as follows:

- a) To secure, further, and safeguard the civil, political, economic and religious rights of Jews everywhere.
- b) To foster and safeguard the democratic way of life in the United States.
- c) To achieve greater democracy within the American Jewish community.
- d) To gather information concerning the civil, political, economic and religious status of the Jewish people throughout the world, and to develop an intelligent and articulate public opinion on Jewish affairs.
- e) To stimulate a positive appreciation of Jewish culture and historic identity and the promotion of a creative Jewish communal life within the framework of American democracy.
- ✓ f) To support the upbuilding of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish (Commonwealth) State.

ARTICLE II

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

Section 1: The American Jewish Congress is the American affiliate of the World Jewish Congress and shall be represented in the governing bodies of the World Jewish Congress in accordance with its statutes, rules and regulations.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: The membership of the American Jewish Congress shall consist of the following:

- ✓ a) Every Jew 18 years of age or over who shall subscribe to the purposes of the American Jewish Congress and agree to abide by its Constitution, may become a member of the American Jewish Congress. Nothing herein contained shall preclude the establishment of American Jewish Congress youth groups, divisions and chapters with the approval of the Executive Committee subject to such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Administrative Committee.
- Ⓛ b) National Jewish organizations which agree with the general aims and purposes of, and to abide by the Constitution of the American Jewish Congress may affiliate with it upon terms and conditions prescribed by the Executive Committee, subject to the approval of the Administrative Committee.

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- ✓ c) Any organized Jewish group. (of not less than 25 members in a community with a Jewish population below 4,000, and any such group of not less than 50 members in any other community) engaged in religious, educational, fraternal, social and similar activities, associations of benevolent and fraternal orders and youth groups which agree(s) with the general aims and purpose of, and to abide by the Constitution or the American Jewish Congress may affiliate with Congress Councils and Regions upon terms and conditions prescribed by the Council or Region, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee or the Administrative Committee.

Section 2: Membership and affiliation dues shall be in such amounts as are prescribed in the b. laws.

Section 3: All members shall have equal rights and privileges.

ARTICLE IV.

CHAPTERS, COUNCILS, DIVISIONS AND REGIONS

CHAPTERS

Section 1: Twenty-five or more persons who are eligible to become or who are members may apply for a charter as a Chapter. Every application for a charter shall be filed with the Secretary.

Section 2: Where the application is for a charter of a Chapter comprising women only, it shall so state and the Secretary shall promptly transmit a copy of the application to the Women's Division for approval or rejection. The Women's Division shall notify the Secretary not later than ten days after such approval or rejection.

Section 3: All other applications shall be transmitted by the Secretary to the Executive Committee for action.

Section 4: Each Chapter shall adopt by-laws, elect officers and administer its affairs in accordance with this Constitution and such by-laws as may be promulgated pursuant hereto.

Section 5: All Chapters comprising women only shall automatically become Chapters of the Women's Division and shall be subject to the by-laws of the Women's Division, which by-laws shall be consistent with and in conformity to this Constitution and such by-laws as may be promulgated pursuant hereto.

Section 6: Each Chapter is charged with the duty of executing the directives and programs issued by the Executive Committee or pursuant to its authorization. No Chapter may engage in any activities inconsistent with such directives or programs. Each Chapter affiliated with a Council shall be subject to the supervision of such Council in the conduct of its activities.

Section 7: Where only one Chapter has been chartered in any city or area, such Chapter shall have the status of a Congress Council.

COUNCILS

Section 1: Any Chapter in a city or area, in which there is more than one Chapter, may propose the formation of a Congress Council for that community.

Section 2: Upon such proposal, or on its own motion, the Executive Committee may establish and charter a Congress Council in such city or area consisting of delegates elected by each constituent Chapter in accordance with the by-laws of the Council. The Executive Committee shall define the jurisdiction of the Council. All Chapters within its jurisdiction shall be constituents of the Council.

Section 3: Each Council shall elect officers and administer its affairs in accordance with this Constitution and such by-laws as may be promulgated pursuant hereto.

Section 4: The Congress Council is charged with the duty of executing, directly through its constituent Chapters, or through the Women's Division, the directives and programs issued by the Executive Committee or pursuant to its authorization. No Council may engage in any activities inconsistent with such directives or programs and no constituent Chapter and no Division may engage in any activities contrary to the decisions of the Congress Council.

REGIONS

Section 1: The Executive Committee may organize a Congress Region consisting of delegates elected by each affiliated Council, in accordance with the by-laws of the Region. The Administrative Committee shall define the jurisdiction of the Region and all Councils within its jurisdiction shall affiliate with the Region.

Section 2: The Region shall elect officers and administer its affairs in accordance with this Constitution and such by-laws as may be promulgated pursuant hereto.

Section 3: The Region is charged with developing through periodic and special meetings, the fullest coordination of the activities of affiliated Councils to the end that national directives and programs shall be fully implemented and Chapters organized and strengthened.

ASSOCIATIONS

✓ Section 1: A Division of Organizations (Associations of Benevolent and Fraternal Orders) may be formed in areas and localities with the approval of the Executive Committee, to consist of Lodges, Fraternal, Benevolent, Religious, Social, Charitable and other societies of a similar character, joined together through their representatives, in support of the American Jewish Congress with such rights, privileges and obligations of regional and division organizations subject to such terms and conditions as may be presented by the Administrative Committee.

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ARTICLE V

WOMEN'S DIVISION

Section 1: The Women's Division shall be an integral part of the American Jewish Congress, shall be known as "The Women's Division of the American Jewish Congress" and shall comprise all Chapters of women only.

Section 2: The Women's Division is charged with the duty of executing the directives and programs issued by the Executive Committee, or pursuant to its authorization, and shall not engage in any activities inconsistent with such directives and programs.

Section 3: For the conduct of its business, it shall adopt by-laws consistent with and in conformity to this Constitution and such by-laws as may be promulgated pursuant hereto.

ARTICLE VI

NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

Section 1: The administration of the American Jewish Congress shall be vested in its officers, Executive Committee, and Administrative Committee.

✓ Section 2: The officers shall be a President, a Chairman of the Executive Committee, a Chairman of the Administrative Committee, a Chairman of the Council on Organization and Finance, not less than one and not more than nine Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer and a Secretary.

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Section 3: All officers, except the Secretary, shall be elected at the Biennial Convention. The Secretary shall be elected by the Executive Committee at its first meeting following the Convention. All officers shall hold office for two years and until their successors in office have been elected.

Section 4: The officers shall have such duties as usually inhere in their respective offices or as may be prescribed by the Executive Committee.

✓ Section 5: No officer or member of the Executive Committee shall receive compensation for his services as such officer or member of the Executive Committee with the exception of the Secretary. No employee of the American Jewish Congress, the Women's Division of the American Jewish Congress, or of any Chapter, Council, Division or Region thereof shall be a member of the Administrative Committee or Executive Committee of the American Jewish Congress or of the National Board of Directors of the Women's Division of the American Jewish Congress.

✓ Section 6: The Executive Committee shall consist of elected officers, one representative from each national affiliated organization, thirty five members to be elected at the Convention, and five members who may be coopted annually by the Executive Committee upon the recommendation of the President. Vacancies shall be filled in the manner of cooptions. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a month, but meetings may be suspended during the summer months. Twenty members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

✓ Section 7: The Administrative Committee shall consist of 150 members to be elected at the Convention, the officers and members of the Executive Committee, and representatives of the affiliated national organizations in such numbers as shall be determined at the time of their affiliation, and 25 members who may be coopted by the Administrative Committee upon the recommendation of the President. Vacancies shall be filled in the manner of cooptions.

Forty members of the Administrative Committee shall constitute a quorum. The Administrative Committee shall be convened at least once every three months, except during the summer months. Upon written request signed by 25 members or upon call by the President, the Administrative Committee may be specially convened. Such special session shall be upon at least two ten days notice and, when so when requested 7 by 25 members or upon at least five days notice when called by the President and shall be convened in either case within 10 20 days after notice given.

The Administrative Committee shall have the power to review and set aside any action of the Executive Committee or any action taken pursuant to its authorization but, except as herein expressly provided, the prior approval of the Administrative Committee shall not be required.

✓ Section 8: The Executive Committee shall have the power to suspend or revoke the charter, and dissolve or reorganize any Chapter, Council, or Region, or any other part of the American Jewish Congress, to direct the modification of the by-laws thereof if inconsistent with the purposes of the Congress, and for cause to suspend or expel any member or affiliated organization, but no such action shall be taken except after hearing and upon written notice to the affected body or person. An appeal from such action may be made to the Administrative Committee, filed with the Secretary, within thirty days after receipt of written notice thereof, and the decision of the Administrative Committee shall be final and binding unless reversed by the next Convention. Nothing herein shall be deemed to limit the authority of the Executive Committee to establish and charter Congress Chapters, Councils and Regions and to define the jurisdiction thereof.

- Section 9: The Executive Committee shall make all arrangements for election of all delegates and alternates to the World Jewish Congress.
- Section 10: The Executive Committee shall submit for approval to the Administrative Committee at least three months before the beginning of the fiscal year, a proposed annual budget in writing. Once approved, the budget shall not be exceeded except with the consent of the Administrative Committee.
- ✓ Section 11: The Executive Committee shall create such standing or special committees as it may deem necessary, members of such committees to be designated by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee, and may vest in such committees any of the authority which the Executive Committee may exercise under this Constitution and the by-laws promulgated pursuant hereto, only such specific authority as may be necessary to enable them to perform such particular function as it may delegate to them from time to time, provided however, any action of such committees may be set aside by the Executive Committee.
- ✓ Section 12: Any vacancy in any of the offices or in the Executive Committee and Administrative Committee shall be filled by a majority vote at any meeting of the Administrative Committee.

ARTICLE VII

DUES AND OTHER FUNDS

- Section 1: All dues collected by any Chapter, Council, Division or Region shall be remitted to the National Office, except for such amounts as may be allocated by provisions in the by-laws to the Chapter, Council, Division or Region for local use.
- Section 2: All other funds raised by any Chapter, Council, Division or Region of the Congress shall be the property of the American Jewish Congress and shall be remitted to the National Office without deduction, in accordance with the by-laws, except for the expenses incurred directly in the raising of such funds and except for such amounts as may be allocated after consultation, for the budgetary needs of the Chapter, Council, Division, or Region by the Executive Committee, or subject to its review, by such committee as may be authorized by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII

CONVENTION

- Section 1: The Convention shall be the supreme legislative body of the American Jewish Congress.
- Section 2: The Convention shall meet biennially and in such special sessions at such time and place as shall be fixed by the Administrative Committee upon at least thirty days notice in advance to all Chapters, Councils, Divisions, Regions and affiliated organizations.
- Section 3: The Convention shall consist of delegates elected and accredited by Chapters, Councils, Regions and affiliated organizations pursuant to such rules and regulations as shall be fixed by the Administrative Committee not later than six weeks prior to the opening date of the Convention or less than three weeks in the case of a special Convention.
- Section 4: The Convention shall elect its officers, appoint committees, and adopt rules for its procedure.

ARTICLE IX

AMENDMENTS

- Section 1: This Constitution may be amended at any regular or special Convention by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present or by three-fourths vote of the Administrative Committee voting in person or by proxy at a meeting called especially for that purpose.
- Section 2: Any Chapter, Council, Division or Region, or the Executive Committee or Administrative Committee may propose amendments to this Constitution.

ARTICLE X

BY-LAWS

- Section 1: The Convention may adopt such by-laws as it deems appropriate and such by-laws shall be subject to amendment as therein provided.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

DUES

Section 1: The dues of the individual members of the American Jewish Congress shall be a minimum of Five Dollars for the calendar year. Upon the payment of such dues, the member shall be entitled to be enrolled as a member of the Congress without further payments and enjoy all the privileges of Congress membership, including a subscription to the Congress Weekly for the year.

Section 2: Out of the dues collected by it, the Chapter may retain for its administration Two Dollars of the first Five Dollars of the dues, and one-third of any amount over Five Dollars. The balance of such dues shall be remitted to the National Office.

Section 3: Where a Chapter is a constituent of a Council, the Council shall determine what part, if any, of the dues which otherwise would be retained by the chapter for its administration, shall be transmitted to the Council for the expenses of its administration.

Section 4: The dues of the individual members of the American Jewish Congress shall be a minimum of Five Dollars for the calendar year. Upon the payment of such dues, the member shall be entitled to be enrolled as a member of the Congress without further payments and enjoy all the privileges of Congress membership, including a subscription to the CONGRESS WEEKLY for the year.

"The Women's Division, however, shall be entitled to fix a minimum dues of Three Dollars for its members, such dues, however, not to include a subscription to CONGRESS WEEKLY. Members of the Women's Division paying a minimum dues of Five Dollars shall be entitled to a subscription to CONGRESS WEEKLY..

Section 5: Dues collected by the women's Chapters and Divisions shall be transmitted to the Treasurer of the Women's Division in the National Office. All other dues shall be transmitted to the National Office through the Councils.

ARTICLE II
AFFILIATION DUES

Section 1: Affiliation dues for national Jewish organizations shall be fixed by the Administrative Committee, upon recommendation of the Council on Organization and Finance.

ARTICLE III
OTHER FUNDS

Section 1: women's Chapters and Divisions shall transmit all other funds to the National Office in accordance with the administrative procedures of the Women's Division.

Section 2: All other funds shall be remitted to the Treasurer of the American Jewish Congress.

ARTICLE IV
BUDGET AND FINANCE

Section 1: All fund-raising shall be conducted by or under the direction of the Council on Organization and Finance.

Section 2: The budget of Congress shall be determined and revised by the Administrative Committee upon the recommendations of the Council on Organization and Finance.

Section 3: Section: Finance The budget of the women's Division shall be subject to approval by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE V
ORGANIZATION

Section 1: All organizing activities shall be conducted by or under the direction of the Council on Organization and Finance.

ARTICLE V/I
AMENDMENTS

Section 1: These by-laws may be amended at any regular or special Convention by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present or by a three-fourths vote of the Administrative Committee voting in person or by proxy at a meeting called especially for that purpose.

Resolutions

Nominating Comm.

Section 1: The dues of the individual members of the American Jewish Congress shall be a minimum of five dollars for the calendar year. Upon the payment of such dues, the member shall be entitled to be enrolled as a member of the Congress without further payments and enjoy all the privileges of Congress membership, including a subscription to the Congress Weekly for the year.

Section 2: The dues of the individual members of the American Jewish Congress shall be a minimum of five dollars for the calendar year. Upon the payment of such dues, the member shall be entitled to be enrolled as a member of the Congress without further payments and enjoy all the privileges of Congress membership, including a subscription to the Congress Weekly for the year.

Section 3: Where a Chapter is a constituent of a Council, the Council shall determine what part, if any, of the dues which otherwise would be retained by the Chapter for its administration, shall be transmitted to the Council, and the dues of the Chapter shall be a minimum of five dollars for the calendar year.

Section 4: The dues of the individual members of the American Jewish Congress shall be a minimum of five dollars for the calendar year. Upon the payment of such dues, the member shall be entitled to be enrolled as a member of the Congress without further payments and enjoy all the privileges of Congress membership, including a subscription to the Congress Weekly for the year.

Section 5: The dues of the individual members of the American Jewish Congress shall be a minimum of five dollars for the calendar year. Upon the payment of such dues, the member shall be entitled to be enrolled as a member of the Congress without further payments and enjoy all the privileges of Congress membership, including a subscription to the Congress Weekly for the year.

Section 6: The dues of the individual members of the American Jewish Congress shall be a minimum of five dollars for the calendar year. Upon the payment of such dues, the member shall be entitled to be enrolled as a member of the Congress without further payments and enjoy all the privileges of Congress membership, including a subscription to the Congress Weekly for the year.

Section 7: The dues of the individual members of the American Jewish Congress shall be a minimum of five dollars for the calendar year. Upon the payment of such dues, the member shall be entitled to be enrolled as a member of the Congress without further payments and enjoy all the privileges of Congress membership, including a subscription to the Congress Weekly for the year.

Section 8: The dues of the individual members of the American Jewish Congress shall be a minimum of five dollars for the calendar year. Upon the payment of such dues, the member shall be entitled to be enrolled as a member of the Congress without further payments and enjoy all the privileges of Congress membership, including a subscription to the Congress Weekly for the year.

Section 9: The dues of the individual members of the American Jewish Congress shall be a minimum of five dollars for the calendar year. Upon the payment of such dues, the member shall be entitled to be enrolled as a member of the Congress without further payments and enjoy all the privileges of Congress membership, including a subscription to the Congress Weekly for the year.

Section 10: The dues of the individual members of the American Jewish Congress shall be a minimum of five dollars for the calendar year. Upon the payment of such dues, the member shall be entitled to be enrolled as a member of the Congress without further payments and enjoy all the privileges of Congress membership, including a subscription to the Congress Weekly for the year.

Section 11: The dues of the individual members of the American Jewish Congress shall be a minimum of five dollars for the calendar year. Upon the payment of such dues, the member shall be entitled to be enrolled as a member of the Congress without further payments and enjoy all the privileges of Congress membership, including a subscription to the Congress Weekly for the year.

Section 12: The dues of the individual members of the American Jewish Congress shall be a minimum of five dollars for the calendar year. Upon the payment of such dues, the member shall be entitled to be enrolled as a member of the Congress without further payments and enjoy all the privileges of Congress membership, including a subscription to the Congress Weekly for the year.

Section 13: The dues of the individual members of the American Jewish Congress shall be a minimum of five dollars for the calendar year. Upon the payment of such dues, the member shall be entitled to be enrolled as a member of the Congress without further payments and enjoy all the privileges of Congress membership, including a subscription to the Congress Weekly for the year.

Section 14: The dues of the individual members of the American Jewish Congress shall be a minimum of five dollars for the calendar year. Upon the payment of such dues, the member shall be entitled to be enrolled as a member of the Congress without further payments and enjoy all the privileges of Congress membership, including a subscription to the Congress Weekly for the year.

ARTICLE I
DUES

ARTICLE II
AFFILIATION DUES

ARTICLE IV
BUDGET AND FINANCE

ARTICLE V
ORGANIZATION

ARTICLE VI
RESOLUTIONS