

October 28, 2024 ~ 26th of Tishrei, 5785

Reflections on the election from Rabbis for Ceasefire

As the November 5th election nears, the threat of fascism here in the U.S. mingles with the role the U.S. is playing in Israel's right-wing fascist government, murdering and maiming hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, and currently carrying out a gruesome extermination campaign in north Gaza.

An end to the horror in Gaza is desperate, and our movements have not yet built the power needed to realize an arms embargo or a permanent ceasefire, even as a majority of voters agree with those goals. Our political leaders continue to fail to represent us.

In these distressing conditions, we must summon our most compassionate selves and stay focused on the long haul of movement building. We invite you to sit in prayer or contemplation, to feel grief and rage, and to hold your own and one another's hearts with tenderness.

The electoral system is not aligned with our commitment to freedom, dignity, and liberation for all people. We must each make a choice at the ballot box that we feel will best position our multifaith, multiracial, queer-affirming communities to care for one another and the earth, and to retain the right to protest and organize to realize the world we need.

We urge every single person who is eligible, to vote in the 2024 election. Turn out to vote for candidates up-and-down the ballot, from city council and school board races to House and Senate races, to the Presidential race. We encourage everyone to support others to get to the polls to cast their ballot and to ensure every vote is counted. For those of us eligible to vote, this is our right and responsibility.

Let's show respect and grace for the impossible position we are all in, one that is particularly acute and painful for our Muslim and Arab siblings. It does not help our movement for justice and collective liberation to fault one another on the Left for the failings of our political system. We need each other for the long haul.

For the next 8 days do what you can to get out the vote: Find an organization locally if you are in or near a swing state to doorknock with. Sign up to phonebank into swing states. Sign up to drive voters to the polls. Every conversation and action matters.