

**FOUNDING PROCLAMATION**  
**Jewish Mayors and Municipal Leaders Association**  
**Miami Beach, Florida — May 2026**

We have seen this before.

Not in history books. In memory. In family stories told at kitchen tables and Passover seders. In the names of relatives who fled cities that had once welcomed them — cities whose governments looked away.

We are the mayors and municipal leaders of American cities and towns. We are also Jewish. And we have decided that this moment calls for us to say so together, and plainly.

Jewish Americans have held public office since before this nation was a century old. We have governed through wars and depressions, through periods of prosperity and periods of hatred, in red states and blue states, in cities large and small. We have brought to that work a tradition rooted in *tzedek*, justice, and *arevut*, the understanding that we are responsible for one another.

That tradition did not emerge from comfort. It emerged from centuries of watching what happens when governments fail to protect their most vulnerable, when institutions erode, and when the warning signs are ignored until it is too late.

We are reading the warning signs. And we are not waiting.

Today, as the United States marks 250 years of democratic life, a democracy in which Jewish Americans have played an integral role since its founding, we establish the Jewish Mayors and Municipal Leaders Association, convened by the Combat Antisemitism Movement, as a permanent home for Jewish municipal leadership in America.

The JMMLA is built on a straightforward premise that the values that have sustained the Jewish people through millennia of adversity are the same values that make cities work. A commitment to truth in governance. The protection of every resident regardless of background or faith. The belief that government exists to serve all of the people, and that those in office have a duty to say so when it falls short.

We are elected officials answerable to our constituents, who have concluded that our shared identity and shared history give us something specific to contribute to this moment in American municipal life.

**We therefore commit, as the founding members of the Jewish Mayors and Municipal Leaders Association, to the following:**

**To govern as if history is watching.** Because it is. The leaders who protected their communities in history's darkest chapters did so through deliberate, specific acts of governance, not through sentiment. We will govern accordingly.

**To speak plainly about what we see.** Antisemitism in America has reached levels unseen in decades. We see it in our cities. We will not pretend otherwise.

**To build cities that belong to everyone.** The Jewish historical experience has taught us what it means to be the outsider, the suspect, the scapegoat. That knowledge makes us determined. Every resident of every city we govern, of every background, faith, and circumstance, deserves a government that is working for them.

**To stand together.** When one of our members faces a threat, we respond. When one of our cities faces a crisis, we share what we know.

**To act with urgency.** We will each, within 90 days of this founding, take at least one concrete action in our own city to assess and strengthen the safety and belonging of every community we serve. We will be accountable to one another for that commitment.

**To invest in what comes next.** We will seek out and support the next generation of Jewish civic leaders because the communities we serve deserve leaders who are ready.

This is our founding proclamation. It is not a statement of grievance. It is a declaration of purpose, drawn from who we are and what we know.

We are here. We are governing.

*Signed by the founding members of the Jewish Mayors and Municipal Leaders Association  
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