

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-6906  
judiciary.house.gov

July 9, 2026

Mr. Mickey Gitzin  
Acting Chief Executive Officer  
New Israel Fund  
6 East 39th Street, Suite 301  
New York, NY 10016-0112

Dear Mr. Gitzin:

In 2019, the Israeli government experienced political instability that resulted in an unprecedented five Knesset elections in four years, ending with the election of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in 2022.<sup>1</sup> According to reports, your U.S.-based nonprofit, New Israel Fund (NIF), may have violated its tax-exempt status under 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) by providing millions of dollars in funding to groups that engaged in political campaign activities in the 2019 Israeli elections.<sup>2</sup> The Committees are investigating whether NIF has made false statements on its Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990 in violation of the IRC.<sup>3</sup> As part of our constitutional oversight responsibilities, we request your organization's voluntary cooperation to assist our review.

As a charitable organization under § 501(c)(3), NIF cannot “participate in, or intervene in . . . any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.”<sup>4</sup> Such participation includes, but is not limited to, “the publication or distribution of written or printed statements or the making of oral statements on behalf of or in opposition to such a candidate.”<sup>5</sup> The prohibition against participating in political campaigns applies to both foreign and domestic elections.<sup>6</sup> In order to qualify for tax-exempt status, the organization must certify each year that it does not engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or

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<sup>1</sup> *Timeline: Israel's election cycle*, REUTERS (Oct. 20, 2022).

<sup>2</sup> Gilad Zwick, *New Israel Fund report shows spike in donations for groups promoting left-wing parties in last elections*, JNS (Nov. 15, 2020); Gilad Zwick, *New Israel Fund supported left-wing organizations ahead of elections, records show*, Israel Hayom (Nov. 15, 2020); *see also* 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3).

<sup>3</sup> 26 U.S.C. § 7206.

<sup>4</sup> 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3).

<sup>5</sup> Treas. Reg. § 1.501(c)(3)-1(c)(3)(iii).

<sup>6</sup> James F. Bloom et al., *Foreign Activities of Domestic Charities and Foreign Charities*, in EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 1992 (1991).

in opposition to candidates for public office.<sup>7</sup> On NIF's 2019 IRS Form 990, and in the following years, NIF attested that it did not engage in political campaign activities during these periods.<sup>8</sup> Knowingly making false statements on a government document could amount to a criminal offense.<sup>9</sup>

NIF has previously been accused of funding organizations in Israel that engage in electioneering. In 2019, a public advocacy group filed a state False Claims Act lawsuit in New York, alleging that NIF "fraudulently obtained and maintains its status of being substantially exempt from taxes by repeatedly and fraudulently certifying that it refrains from electioneering activities."<sup>10</sup> According to the amended complaint, "[f]or at least the past 10 years and continuing through the present NIF has consistently electioneered in Israel by giving grants to organizations which oppose and support candidates for public office in Israel."<sup>11</sup> The complaint noted, as one example, that NIF launched a "campaign to equip Israel's pro-democracy and progressive forces with the tools to fight Israel's regressive right and win," essentially confirming its intent to interfere in Israeli elections.<sup>12</sup> NIF formed a "partnership" with, and gave grants to, the Council for Peace and Security, which subsequently launched a campaign to vote Prime Minister Netanyahu out of office in 2015.<sup>13</sup>

The complaint also noted that in between 2014 and 2018, NIF provided grants to the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC), which engaged in political activities in Israel.<sup>14</sup> During Israel's 2015 election, IRAC argued before the Israeli Supreme Court against the appeal of a candidate who had been disqualified from running for the Knesset.<sup>15</sup> Despite IRAC's clear involvement in an election, NIF continued to provide it with funding.<sup>16</sup> IRAC again involved itself in Israel's 2019 election by publishing a video opposing a specific political party and specific candidates.<sup>17</sup> The parties reached a settlement in March of 2021 in which neither party admitted to wrongdoing or received damages.<sup>18</sup>

In addition to the complaint, public reports detail other ways in which NIF has contributed to election activities in Israel.<sup>19</sup> NIF provided approximately \$356,000 to Zazim, an Israeli organization that "operated a transportation system that brought thousands of Bedouin

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<sup>7</sup> 2025 Instructions for Form 990, IRS (Dec. 9, 2025).

<sup>8</sup> *New Israel Fund, Form 990*, PROPUBLICA (Fiscal Year 2019); *New Israel Fund, Form 990*, PROPUBLICA (Fiscal Year 2020); *New Israel Fund, Form 990*, PROPUBLICA (Fiscal Year 2021); *New Israel Fund, Form 990*, PROPUBLICA (Fiscal Year 2022).

<sup>9</sup> 26 U.S.C. § 7206.

<sup>10</sup> Amended Complaint at 1, *New York ex rel. TZAC, Inc. v. New Isr. Fund*, No. 20-cv-2955 (S.D.N.Y. June 17, 2020).

<sup>11</sup> *Id.* at 5.

<sup>12</sup> *Id.* at 6 (quoting NIF's website).

<sup>13</sup> *Id.* at 7 (quoting NIF's website).

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*

<sup>15</sup> *Id.*

<sup>16</sup> *Id.*

<sup>17</sup> *Id.*

<sup>18</sup> Stipulation of Settlement and Dismissal, *New York ex rel. TZAC, Inc. v. New Isr. Fund*, No. 20-cv-2955 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 11, 2021).

<sup>19</sup> *Supra* note 2, Zwick.

voters” to the polls that were part of the opposition party to Prime Minister Netanyahu.<sup>20</sup> NIF also provided approximately \$95,000 to Adalah, a group that “provided legal representation to the Joint Arab List,” an alliance of Arab parties that centered their campaign around ousting Prime Minister Netanyahu in favor of his opponent, Benny Gantz.<sup>21</sup> There is evidence that NIF has also “directly” engaged in electioneering in Israel by “help[ing] to gather names for a petition to disqualify [a] candidate” running for a position in Israel’s legislature.<sup>22</sup> When the Israeli Supreme Court banned the candidate, “NIF called it a victory for democracy.”<sup>23</sup>

Congress has an important interest in ensuring that nonprofits that receive federal tax-exempt status are abiding by U.S. law. As part of the Committees’ oversight, we respectfully request that you provide the following documents and information:

1. All documents and communications referring or relating to any grants, cooperative agreements, or other awards that New Israel Fund provided to Adalah, Mossawa, Adam Teva, Standing Together (Omdim Beyachad), Zazim, Mitvim, Sikkuy-Aufoq, Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC), Darkenu, Mehazkim, or Breaking the Silence from January 1, 2019 to the present; and
2. A detailed breakdown of how funds New Israel Fund provided to the following individuals and groups from January 1, 2019, to the present were spent, including the amount, date, recipient, and purpose of each expenditure, along with any relevant supporting documentation:
  - a. Adalah, Mossawa
  - b. Adam Teva
  - c. Standing Together (Omdim Beyachad)
  - d. Zazim
  - e. Mitvim
  - f. Sikkuy-Aufoq
  - g. Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC)
  - h. Darkenu
  - i. Mehazkim
  - j. Breaking the Silence.

Please produce all documents and information as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 23, 2026.

This letter serves as a formal request to preserve all existing and future records and materials relating to the topics addressed in this letter. You should construe this preservation notice as an instruction to take all reasonable steps to prevent the destruction or alteration, whether intentionally or negligently, of all documents, communications, and other information,

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<sup>20</sup> *Id.*

<sup>21</sup> *Id.*; Rida Abu Rass, *What can the Joint List teach us about building Palestinian political power?*, +972 MAGAZINE (May 23, 2025).

<sup>22</sup> *Supra* note 10, Amended Complaint, at 5.

<sup>23</sup> *Id.*

Mr. Mickey Gitzin  
July 9, 2026  
Page 4

including electronic information and metadata, that are or may be responsive to this congressional inquiry. This instruction includes all electronic messages sent using your professional and personal accounts or devices, including records created using text messages, phone-based message applications, or encryption software.

The Supreme Court has recognized that Congress has a “broad and indispensable” power to conduct oversight, which “encompasses inquiries into the administration of existing laws, studies of proposed laws, and surveys in our social, economic or political system for the purpose of enabling Congress to remedy them.”<sup>24</sup> A congressional request for information is valid where it involves “a subject on which legislation could be had.”<sup>25</sup>

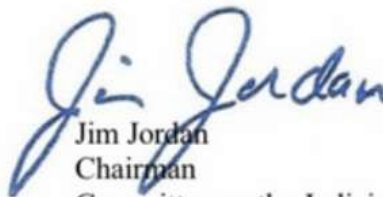
Pursuant to Rule X, clause 1(t) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Ways and Means has jurisdiction over matters related to tax-exempt organizations.<sup>26</sup> Oversight authority of the Committee on Ways and Means’s jurisdiction is delegated to the Committee under Rule X, clause 2 of the Rules of the House of Representatives.<sup>27</sup> Pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to conduct oversight of matters concerning criminal law to inform potential legislative reforms.<sup>28</sup> The documents requested by the Committee will inform our consideration of these potential reforms by enabling us to verify whether U.S. government funds have been used to interfere in foreign elections and whether organizations are providing complete and accurate information when applying for nonprofit status.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact the Committee on the Judiciary staff at (202) 225-6906 or the Committee on Ways and Means staff at (202) 225-3625. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jason Smith  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means



Jim Jordan  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
The Honorable Richard E. Neal, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and Means

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<sup>24</sup> *Trump v. Mazars USA, LLP*, 591 U.S. 848, 862 (2020) (internal quotation marks omitted).

<sup>25</sup> *Eastland v. U.S. Servicemen’s Fund*, 421 U.S. 491, 506 (1975) (internal quotation marks omitted).

<sup>26</sup> Rule X, clause 1(t), Rules of the House of Representatives, (119th Cong.).

<sup>27</sup> Rule X, clause 2, Rules of the House of Representatives, (119th Cong.).

<sup>28</sup> Rules of the House of Representatives, 119th Cong., R. X (2025). Falsely claiming to not engage in political campaign activities to obtain or maintain tax-exempt status may, in some cases, be a criminal offense. *See* 18 U.S.C. §§ 371, 1001; 26 U.S.C. §§ 7206, 7207, 7212.