

Election Regulations of the Federation of Dutch Zionists (FNZ)

Article 1. Purpose and Scope

These regulations set forth the provisions governing the election of delegates to the Zionist Congress, organized by the Federation of Dutch Zionists (FNZ).

The elections are conducted in writing and take place in the Netherlands.

Article 2. Voting Rights and Eligibility for Candidacy

1. Voting rights are granted to every Jew who:
 - Is at least 18 years old or will turn 18 no later than December 31, 2025;
 - Permanently resides in the Netherlands;
 - Is a member of the FNZ and has registered in accordance with the applicable membership terms;
 - Did not vote in the last Knesset elections.
2. Eligible for candidacy is any voting member who is registered in the voters' register of the relevant electoral district and meets the above criteria.

Article 3. Voter Registration and Membership

1. Participation in the elections requires registration through an online form or at a polling station, in which the registrant confirms:
 - They are Jewish;
 - They reside in the Netherlands (with proof if necessary);
 - They are a member of the FNZ.
2. Registration is validated upon payment of €5 per person, and €2.50 for those aged 25 or younger on the date of payment.
3. Registration as a voter opens no later than 25 days before the election.
4. Voter registration is possible online up to 7 days before the start of postal voting, and up to 5 days before in-person voting. On-site registration at polling stations remains possible.
5. Those living more than 25 kilometers from a polling station may request to vote by mail. They will receive a personalized ballot by email, which must be returned by post and received no later than July 5, 2025.
6. All registered voters will be entered into the Voter Register. Access is restricted to members of the Election Committee. In accordance with GDPR regulations, personal data must not be shared with third parties.

Article 4. Candidacy

1. Every candidate must reside in the electoral district and be registered in the Voter Register.
2. Candidates and candidate lists must:

- Collect the required number of supporting signatures as per WZO Election Rules, Article 10.
 - Signatures must include full name and address of the signatory and support of the Jerusalem Program.
 - No individual may support more than one candidate or list; duplicate endorsements invalidate all such signatures.
- Submit a declaration stating: “I hereby declare my candidacy for election to the ... Zionist Congress on the list (name of list) in the Netherlands electoral district.”

Article 5. Announcement of Elections

1. The General Election Committee (AEC) will publicly announce the election date six weeks in advance.
2. Elections must take place no later than three months prior to the opening of the Congress, and in the Netherlands will be held from Sunday, June 29 through Sunday, July 6.
3. The election date and rules will be published no later than May 21. The formal election announcement will follow by May 28 via press releases and Jewish media (including Joods.nl, Jonet, NIW, NIK, LJG, PIG, and Dutchtown). Organizations may further disseminate this information.

Article 6. Voting Procedures

1. Registered voters may cast their vote between June 29 and July 6 at polling stations at different locations. Locations and times will be determined by the Election Committee no later than four weeks before the elections. A maximum of two polling stations per day is proposed. Parties may submit suggestions, and a balanced decision will be made based on relevant factors such as time available to vote, number of voters, and security.
2. Voting hours may be extended if voters are still in line at closing time.
3. Voting is secret. Proxy voting is not allowed. Exemptions from the WZO are not possible.
4. All voters must present valid identification. Those not affiliated with a religious community must also provide proof of residence in the Netherlands.
5. Voters must not have participated in the last Knesset elections.
6. Each voter may cast only one vote.

Article 7. Polling Station Management

1. Each polling location must have at least one member of the Election Committee present.
2. Observers may be present during voting and vote counting.
3. Votes must be counted by at least two individuals from different parties, including one Election Committee member and one appointed volunteer. This arrangement is finalized by the Election Committee no later than June 15.

Article 8. Voting on Lists and Number of Candidates

1. Each list must state its candidates and, where applicable, their affiliation with international WZO factions.
2. Each party may send a maximum of one delegate to the Congress. Lists in alliance are treated as a single party.
3. Candidate lists may consist of up to two potential delegates and two alternates.
4. List numbers (ranking) are determined by the length of uninterrupted FNZ membership of the party (or the oldest party in a joint list). In the event of a tie, lots are drawn.

Article 9. Election Results and Seat Allocation

1. Seats are distributed using a proportional representation system:
 - As only two seats are available, and no single party may hold both, the two (combined) parties with the most votes each receive one seat.

Article 10. Polling Reports

1. Upon the close of voting, the results are recorded in an official report signed by the chairperson and at least two polling committee members from different lists.
2. Any dissenting opinions must be documented in writing.

Article 11. Appeals and Objections

1. Appeals against the election results may be filed within 21 days with the WZO.
2. Appeals must be submitted in writing and substantiated to the Central Election Committee, in accordance with the WZO Election Rules.
3. The committee must issue a decision within 14 days of receipt.

Article 12. Exceptions

In exceptional cases, the AEC may request a deviation from the rules from the WZO Central Committee, provided two-thirds of AEC members agree and no party is unfairly advantaged or disadvantaged. This provision is rarely invoked.

Article 13. Miscellaneous Provisions

1. The final delegation must be composed of at least 40% women and one-third under the age of 35. With only two seats, this could theoretically mean two men over 35, but the WZO encourages the inclusion of women and youth on candidate lists.
2. If the elections are deemed unfair due to serious rule violations, a party may be excluded from participation and/or from the election results. This is at the discretion of the Election Committee. Appeals may be filed with the WZO.
3. Candidates or lists may not finance the Zionist Shekel in whole or in part.
4. Campaign communication must remain within the bounds of decency and mutual respect.
5. It is prohibited to campaign within 50 meters of a polling station.

6. Jewish identity is determined by self-affiliation.
7. A vote is valid if it clearly marks one candidate, the voter's identity is verified, and the ballot is valid. Invalid votes are considered not cast.

Appendix: Key Dates for the 2025 Elections

- Official submission of candidate/candidate list (including alliances): May 31, 23:59
- Start of voter registration: June 1, until 23:59
- Deadline for submitting required signatures and other candidacy requirements: June 12, 23:59
- Final date for a party to withdraw: June 12, 23:59
- Confirmation of persons overseeing polling/counting: June 14
- Elections: June 29 – July 6
- Vote counting: Evening of July 6
- Preliminary results shared with candidates: July 6 or 7
- Deadline for appeals: July 27
- Final results published: July 28
- Final election report completed: August 15
- Approval of delegation: October 14