



# Daily News Bulletin

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Thursday, November 7, 2002

85th Year

## U.S. ELECTIONS

### Jews elected to 108<sup>th</sup> Congress

#### SENATE

Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.)  
 Norm Coleman (R-Minn.)\*\*  
 Russell Feingold (D-Wisc.)  
 Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.)  
 Herb Kohl (D-Wisc.)  
 Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) \*\*  
 Carl Levin (D-Mich.) \*  
 Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.)  
 Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.)  
 Arlen Specter (R-Pa.)  
 Ron Wyden (D-Ore.)

New members marked with \*\*  
 Re-elected members marked with \*

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Gary Ackerman (D-N.Y.)  
 Shelley Berkley (D-Nev.)  
 Howard Berman (D-Calif.)  
 Eric Cantor (R-Va.)  
 Ben Cardin (D-Md.)  
 Susan Davis (D-Calif.)  
 Peter Deutsch (D-Fla.)  
 Rahm Emanuel (D-Ill.)\*\*  
 Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.)  
 Bob Filner (D-Calif.)  
 Barney Frank (D-Mass.)  
 Martin Frost (D-Texas)  
 Jane Harman (D-Calif.)  
 Steve Israel (D-N.Y.)  
 Tom Lantos (D-Calif.)  
 Sander Levin (D-Mich.)  
 Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.)  
 Jerry Nadler (D-N.Y.)  
 Steve Rothman (D-N.J.)  
 Bernard Sanders (Ind-Vt.)  
 Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.)  
 Adam Schiff (D-Calif.)  
 Brad Sherman (D-Calif.)  
 Howard Waxman (D-Calif.)  
 Anthony Weiner (D-N.Y.)  
 Robert Wexler (D-Fla.)

New members are marked with \*\*

## Republican Congress will retain a pro-Israel bent, activists say

By Matthew E. Berger

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Pro-Israel activists say they are confident their legislative priorities will be able to get through the new Congress, which is now under Republican control.

In a Republican sweep that elated Republicans and stunned Democrats, the GOP retook control of the Senate and retained the House of Representatives in Tuesday's elections.

In the final election returns, which came early Wednesday morning, a predominance of pro-Israel lawmakers retained their seats, and several new faces emerged, many of whom pro-Israel officials called promising.

The new Congress will take office at a critical time in U.S.-Israel relations, with Israel entering a heated election campaign, prospects for peace with the Palestinians at a standstill and a U.S.-led war against Iraq looming.

The congressional approach to Israel and the Middle East are a significant component in those relations.

Among the winners in this week's elections were two new Jewish senators, Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.), who returns to the Senate after a two-year absence, and Norm Coleman (R-Minn.), the former mayor of St. Paul, who will take the seat of the late Paul Wellstone.

While American Jewish leaders were closely watching the poll results, there was not much concern.

Officials had said they were comfortable with the candidates from both major parties in most of the congressional races.

"Everyone seems to be very good nowadays," said Morris Amitay, a veteran Jewish activist who is treasurer of the pro-Israel Washington PAC.

While the Jewish community is predominantly Democratic, Jewish groups have had much success getting legislation passed in a Republican House.

Prior to the election, many said they believed they would have success no matter which party controls the Senate.

Support for Israel "is a bipartisan issue," one American Jewish leader said. "Congress is overwhelmingly pro-Israel."

Another senior pro-Israel official said his organization had spoken during the campaign season to virtually all the nonincumbent candidates who won Tuesday, and that they expected the 108th Congress to be even more supportive of Israel than the outgoing body.

Many of the candidates that the pro-Israel community targeted for defeat were eliminated in primaries or were not seeking re-election.

The lone area of concern seemed to be New Hampshire, where Rep. John Sununu, a Republican of Palestinian and Lebanese descent, defeated the state's Democratic governor, Jeanne Shaheen, on Tuesday to join the Senate.

The National Jewish Democratic Council had blasted Sununu for not supporting several resolutions regarding Israel, including one criticizing the United Nations for passing anti-Israel resolutions and another seeking information on Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon.

Matthew Brooks, executive director of the Republican Jewish Coalition, conceded that Sununu has had a "less than stellar record of support."

Yet, Brooks said that during the race Sununu "wrote an encouraging position

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### 2 Israelis killed in Gaza Strip

A Palestinian worker shot and killed two Israelis and wounded a third before being killed in a Gaza Strip settlement Wednesday.

The attack occurred in the greenhouse area of the Rafah Yam settlement in southern Gaza. The two Israelis were identified as Amos Sa'adah, 52, and Asaf Tsafira, 18. Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack and identified the attacker as a resident of Khan Yunis.

### Netanyahu sworn in

Benjamin Netanyahu was sworn in Wednesday as Israel's foreign minister.

The position in Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's minority government is Netanyahu's first political office since Ehud Barak ousted him as prime minister in 1999.

In his first statement as foreign minister, Netanyahu announced Wednesday that the U.S.-sponsored road map for Middle East peace was "not on the agenda" because of an anticipated U.S. attack on Iraq.

### Poll: Likud will beat Labor

Israel's Likud Party will make strong gains over Labor when early elections are held, according to a new poll.

The poll by the Dahaf Institute also put Prime Minister Ariel Sharon ahead of Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as the favorite for the Likud leadership, by 44 percent to 38 percent.

The survey of 550 Israelis, published Wednesday by Yediot Achronot a day after Sharon called for early elections, indicated that Likud would win 33 seats in the 120-member Knesset, up from its current 19, and emerge as the strongest party.

Labor would lose five seats and drop to 19, according to the poll, which had a margin of error of 4 percent.

paper" that reaffirmed his commitment to foreign aid and stressed the need to maintain Israel's military superiority in the Middle East and protect Israel's security.

"We look forward to seeing how his support evolves and grows in the Senate," Brooks said.

Added one top pro-Israel official: Sununu "reached out early on. It's a sign of him not trying to have any hostilities."

The official, who did not want to be identified, said Sununu has already had conversations with several Jewish officials, and he will be placed "in the category of people we will have to keep a dialogue with."

In New Jersey, Lautenberg defeated Republican businessman Doug Forrester to take the seat previously held by Democratic Sen. Robert Torricelli.

Coleman, who narrowly defeated his last-minute Democratic challenger, former Vice President Walter Mondale, in Minnesota, was opposed by the Minnesota chapter of the Council on American Islamic Relations as a possible Bush administration appointee two years ago because he is an "ardent supporter of Israel."

The former Jewish mayor of St. Paul, Coleman received strong support — financial backing from the Republican Jewish Coalition and its supporters.

"He's a passionate, Jewish representative," Brooks said.

The 108th Congress will get down to work in early January as both Israel and the Palestinians prepare for elections of their own, and the possibility of U.S. military action against Iraq is still an unknown.

Against this backdrop, pro-Israel advocates say their agenda for the next two years will focus on legislation that did not get passed this year.

Those measures include:

- An additional \$200 million in aid to Israel is expected to be tackled by the lame-duck Congress later this month. That will be wrapped into the foreign aid bill, which includes \$3 billion in economic and military aid for Israel.

- The Palestinian reform bill, dubbed the Arafat Accountability Act, would deny visas to Palestinian Authority officials, restrict travel of Palestinian officials and freeze the American assets of Palestinian leaders.

- The Syria Accountability Act would ban military and dual-use exports to Syria, and ban financial assistance to U.S. businesses that invest in Syria.

Jewish officials say a Republican majority in Congress could move the flow of legislation faster than in a divided body where partisan issues are paramount.

However, the Republican-led House of Representatives still has had to battle with the White House on several bills related to the Middle East, with the Bush administration complaining that the bills tie its hands and make it harder to implement foreign policy.

But House Republicans have been able to prevail, pushing through a pro-Israel resolution last spring that called on the United States to provide additional aid to Israel and condemning "the ongoing support of terror" by Arafat and other Palestinian leaders.

Other variables, such as the changing makeup of the Israeli government after the Labor Party's departure last week and upcoming Israeli elections, could affect congressional action on the Middle East.

U.S. action against Iraq could change things as well.

If the United States attacks Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's regime, lawmakers are expected to rally around the flag in support of the president. This could push other Middle East issues off the agenda and make it difficult for Jewish groups to pursue legislation. However, Congress would be likely to offer strong support for Israel's right to defend itself if attacked by Iraq in the course of a U.S.-led war.

There also are more subtle variables in the next Congress.

Benjamin Gilman, the Jewish Republican from New York, is vacating the chairmanship of the House International Relations Committee's Middle East panel.

Congressional officials say the Middle East portfolio is expected to come under the auspices of the chairman of the full committee, Rep. Henry Hyde (R-Ill.).

If the Middle East subcommittee remains separate, possible Republican chairpersons include Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.), a strong Israel backer, and Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-Calif.), a lawmaker who has frequently voted against pro-Israel resolutions and foreign aid. □



## Daily News Bulletin

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## JEWISH WORLD

### Sharon won't attend G.A.

Ariel Sharon will not be attending the United Jewish Communities' General Assembly.

The Israel Consulate in New York said it received word that the Israeli prime minister canceled his appearance at the annual conference of North American federations.

A spokeswoman at the consulate said she had no further information.

The General Assembly is scheduled to take place Nov. 20-22 in Philadelphia and is expected to draw some 4,000 Jewish leaders.

### U.S. defends killing stance

The U.S. State Department stood firm in its opposition to Israel's targeted killing of terrorists, even after the United States took a similar action this week in Yemen.

"Our policy on targeted killings in the Israeli-Palestinian context has not changed," department spokesman Richard Boucher said Tuesday. "If you look back at what we have said about targeted killings in the Israeli-Palestinian context, you will find that the reasons we have given do not necessarily apply in other circumstances."

A day earlier in Yemen, a missile fired by a CIA drone plane killed six Al-Qaida terrorists.

### Clinton remembers Rabin

There would have been a comprehensive Israeli-Palestinian peace deal in 1998 if Yitzhak Rabin had not been assassinated, former President Clinton said Tuesday.

"I never loved another man more than I loved Yitzhak Rabin," Clinton said at a memorial for the former Israeli prime minister at the Israeli Embassy in Washington.

The event was attended by three former U.S. secretaries of state and numerous officials from the first Bush and Clinton administrations, as well as by Rabin's son, Yuval.

### Spielberg meets with Cuban Jews

Film director Steven Spielberg honored Holocaust victims during a visit to Cuba. Spielberg met in Havana on Wednesday with descendants of Auschwitz survivors.

He later visited a memorial to Holocaust victims at the city's Jewish cemetery.

Spielberg also visited Havana's largest synagogue and called on Cuba's small Jewish community to keep its traditions and faith.

Cuban Jewry once numbered 15,000, but waves of emigration followed Castro's rise to power in 1959, leaving the community currently with some 1,200 people.

## U.S. ELECTIONS 2002

### Lautenberg's Jewish fans celebrate his 'un-retirement'

By Marilyn Silverstein and Robert Wiener  
New Jersey Jewish News

WHIPPANY, N.J. (JTA) — Nowhere more than in New Jersey were Jewish Democrats reveling in this week's political comeback of Sen. Frank Lautenberg.

At Lautenberg headquarters at the New Brunswick Hyatt on election night Tuesday, the promise of that victory floated in the air as high as the red, white and blue balloons hugging the ballroom ceiling.

Just minutes after the polls closed at 8 p.m., the hubbub of the hundreds of supporters milling around the ballroom coalesced into whoops and cheers as two large television monitors broadcast CNN's declaration that Lautenberg was the winner.

In the final tally, Lautenberg trounced Doug Forrester, his Republican opponent, by a 10 percent margin, 54 to 44 percent, winning 13 of New Jersey's 21 counties and a plurality of 200,000 votes.

According to a New Jersey Jewish News exit poll conducted by Zogby International, the Jewish community contributed significantly to that decisive victory.

Results showed that 79.7 percent of the Jews who voted — and a stunning 83.8 percent of Jewish women voters — pulled the lever for Lautenberg.

The 78-year-old Lautenberg, who retired from his Senate seat at the end of 2000 after serving for three terms, rode back to the Senate on the wings of a strong legislative record. A staunch supporter of Israel and a former general chair of the United Jewish Appeal, he was the first Jew ever elected to statewide office in New Jersey and was one of the first Jews elected to the U.S. Senate.

During his three Senate terms, he stood out as an outspoken critic of Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat, and he spoke out against the anti-Israel rhetoric of the Arabic-language media.

Lautenberg backed the legislation that made it possible for American victims of terror to collect damages from the frozen assets of countries that sponsor terrorism.

He also made a name for himself as a champion of Soviet Jewry.

In 1990, he sponsored a bill making it mandatory for immigration officials to take into account historic persecution, not just individual persecution, when deciding who qualifies for refugee status.

The Lautenberg Amendment opened the door to liberation for close to 400,000 Jews from the former Soviet Union who found a new and better life in the United States.

Now, his election victory will be all about making a better life for all New Jerseyans, Lautenberg told the cheering crowd in the Hyatt ballroom as he savored his win surrounded by his family, including his four children and five of his eight grandchildren.

"Tonight, we stand here with a mandate to stand up for all the people of New Jersey," he shouted above the cheers.

"My commitment is to do for your children and your families what I want to do for these children, my kids' families. That's what government is about — to make life better for our citizens. I must tell you," he added. "I can't wait to go back to work!"

That's the interesting part, said political observer Jon Shure — Lautenberg gets to "un-retire," something he wanted to do.

"He made a decision he regretted when he decided to retire, and now he gets to go back, which most people don't get to do," said Shure, executive director of the New Jersey Policy Perspective, a Trenton-based liberal think tank.

"The only down side is that he goes back to being part of a minority," now that the balance has shifted in favor of the Republicans in the Senate. But even that may offer an advantage, Shure added. "He's got the potential for being a strong, progressive voice for New Jersey. He can now speak out very strongly," Shure said.

Trenton attorney Lonny Kaplan also stressed the importance of the Lautenberg victory when it comes to congressional support for Israel. "He's someone who will be there to stand up for Israel when it needs standing up for," said Kaplan, a past president of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the pro-Israel lobby. □

U.S. ELECTIONS 2002**Jewish minyan in Senate grows as Lautenberg and Coleman win***By Sharon Samber*

WASHINGTON (JTA) — With Frank Lautenberg's triumphant return to the Capitol and Norm Coleman's victory in Minnesota, the Senate's Jewish minyan is safe for the next two years — and even a little more crowded.

In the House of Representatives, one new Jewish face emerged after Tuesday's national elections — Rahm Emanuel, the former Clinton adviser.

In an indication of the spectrum of Jewish political views, Emanuel will join Eric Cantor (R-Va.), a staunch conservative and the only Jewish Republican left in the House.

Overall, the Jewish presence in Congress stayed almost the same, with 11 senators and 26 representatives. The 107th Congress had 10 senators and 27 representatives, but one senator and one representative died in office.

In Tuesday's election, four Jewish candidates were vying for seats in the Senate, 36 for seats in the House of Representatives and two for their states' governor's mansions, both of whom were successful.

When it woke Wednesday morning, the nation — which voted for 36 governors, all 435 members of the House of Representatives and 34 members of the Senate — learned that the Republicans had gained full control of Congress.

With a faltering economy, a war brewing with Iraq and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict roiling the Middle East, Congress' leadership and approach after these elections will be significant.

The Republican victory in the Senate — the GOP also solidified its previous control of the House — could affect domestic issues that are important to the Jewish community.

Parts of the Bush administration's agenda, such as the faith-based initiative, which calls for opening up more funding to religious groups to provide social services, might be advanced. Congress has moved slowly on the initiative, pushing the White House to pursue change through means other than legislation.

In the race for the Senate, venerated Jewish lawmaker Lautenberg, a Democrat, beat his Republican opponent, Doug Forrester, in New Jersey. Lautenberg, a former chairman of the United Jewish Appeal who retired from the Senate in 2000, stepped into the race in October to replace the incumbent, Sen. Robert Torricelli, who quit following charges of ethics violations.

In addition to his support for Israel and his strong Jewish communal connections, Lautenberg is well-known for his work in assisting immigrants, resulting in a 1990 measure that required immigration officials to take into account historical persecution when judging an applicant's refugee status.

The Lautenberg Amendment, which is still in effect, allowed many Jews from the former Soviet Union — some 350,000 to 400,000 by the senator's count — to gain entry to the United States without having to prove they were persecuted.

According to a New Jersey Jewish News exit poll conducted by Zogby International, the state's 450,000-strong Jewish community contributed significantly to Lautenberg's victory. Results showed that 79.7 percent of the Jews who voted — and 83.8 percent of Jewish women voters — chose Lautenberg.

The one Jewish senator up for re-election — Carl Levin (D-Mich.) — easily defeated his Republican challenger, Andrew Raczkowski.

The fourth Jewish candidate for Senate, Idaho's Alan Blinken, lost to the Republican incumbent, Sen. Larry Craig.

The victories by Levin and Lautenberg, announced Tuesday evening, ensured that there would still be a "minyan" in the Senate.

The Jewish incumbents in the Senate are Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), Russell Feingold (D-Wisc.), Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Herb Kohl (D-Wisc.), Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.), Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.).

In a race that Jewish political junkies followed closely, Rep. John Sununu beat Gov. Jeanne Shaheen for the Senate seat in New Hampshire. Shaheen had garnered some Jewish financial support, mostly to block Sununu.

Sununu, who is of Palestinian and Lebanese background, has come under fire for supporting U.S. aid to the Palestinian Authority. He also has voted for aid to Israel, however, and has returned campaign contributions from Arab donors who backed Hamas.

Even with Republicans in control of the Senate, some political analysts do not foresee dramatic changes, as the party's margin will be narrow.

Stuart Rothenberg, editor and publisher of the Rothenberg Political Report, believes the Republican agenda has been thin, focusing mostly on tax cuts, and the GOP now will look for other administration messages to push.

The main difference will be more of a "psychological factor" now that Republicans can dictate the flow of legislation, Rothenberg said. The Republican victory also will influence how Jewish organizations press their issues, according to David Zwiebel, executive vice president for government and public affairs for Agudath Israel of America, a fervently Orthodox group.

An example is special education: With Republicans at the helm in the Senate, Zwiebel said his group might press for a voucher system to help children with special needs in private schools, Zwiebel said.

Reva Price, Washington representative for the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, offered a similar analysis, without delving into specific issues. "The tactics might be different, but the agenda remains the same," she said.

In the House, Jews are losing a longtime friend on Capitol Hill with the retirement of Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.).

With Gilman's departure, Cantor, who won re-election, becomes the lone Jewish Republican in the House.

In the House, former Clinton adviser Rahm Emanuel defeated Mark Augusti for the open seat in Illinois' 5th District.

All Jewish incumbents up for re-election Tuesday retained their seats.

In California's 27th District, Democratic incumbent Brad Sherman easily won the only "Jew vs. Jew" race in the House, beating Republican challenger Robert Levy, a family law attorney and past president of his synagogue's Men's Club.

The seven other California Jews in the House, all Democrats, cruised to comfortable victories despite running in redrawn districts. There also are two new Jewish governors: Pennsylvania Democrat Ed Rendell and Republican Linda Lingle of Hawaii. □

(JTA correspondent Tom Tugend in Los Angeles contributed to this article.)