

**JEWS IN CONGRESS****U.S. Senate**

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

**U.S. House of Representatives**

Gary Ackerman (D-N.Y.)  
 Shelley Berkley (D-Nev.)  
 Howard Berman (D-Calif.)  
 Eric Cantor (R-Va.)  
 Benjamin Cardin (D-Md.)  
 Susan Davis (D-Calif.)  
 Rahm Emanuel (D-Ill.)  
 Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.)  
 Bob Filner (D-Calif.)  
 Barney Frank (D-Mass.)  
 Jane Harman (D-Calif.)  
 Steve Israel (D-N.Y.)  
 Tom Lantos (D-Calif.)  
 Sander Levin (D-Mich.)  
 Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.)  
 Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.)  
 Steven Rothman (D-N.J.)  
*Bernard Sanders (I-Vt.)*  
 Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.)  
 Adam Schiff (D-Calif.)  
**Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.)**  
**Allyson Schwartz (D-Pa.)**  
 Brad Sherman (D-Calif.)  
 Henry Waxman (D-Calif.)  
 Anthony Weiner (D-N.Y.)  
 Robert Wexler (D-Fla.)

\* New representatives are in bold. Senators not up for re-election in 2004 are italicized.

# WORLD REPORT

PUBLISHED WEEKDAYS BY JTA—THE GLOBAL NEWS SERVICE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE • WWW.JTA.ORG

## Congress to bid goodbye to Frost, say hello to two new Jewish women

By MATTHEW E. BERGER

**W**ASHINGTON (JTA) — The faces may change, but the number of Jews in the U.S. Congress will stay the same for the next two years.

And Jewish organizational officials are looking at several new lawmakers with excitement, and a few with concern.

Two Jewish Democratic women will join the House of Representatives in January, after winning open seats Tuesday.

And Congress will say goodbye to one of its most prominent Jewish members, as Rep. Martin Frost (D-Texas) lost his battle in a new district against another incumbent.

Several other Democratic Jews who tried to join Congress lost their long-shot bids.

Barring any unforeseen changes, there will be 11 Jews in the Senate and 26 in the House next year, the same numbers as the last two years.

The number of Jews in Congress is not indicative of how the Jewish community's legislative agenda will fare in Congress. In fact, analysts say, the balance of power in each chamber is a more important factor.

Both the Senate and House of Representatives will stay in Republican hands next year, which could hurt the chances of some Jewish domestic policy priorities.

But, the Republicans have been seen as strongly supporting Israel in recent years.

But having Jewish representation in each chamber is important to Jewish organizational officials, who feel some Jewish lawmakers are more interested in their issues and more willing to trumpet their agenda.

"Members of Congress with a Jewish background have a certain affinity for our community, and our community has a certain affinity for them," said Richard Foltin, legislative director of the American Jewish Committee.

There was much affinity for Frost, who lost to Rep. Pete Sessions (R-Texas) in a redrawn district that heavily favored the Republican.

A former House Democratic whip, Frost was considered an underdog in the redrawn district. He had strong support in the Jewish community, with several prominent Jews raising funds for him.

While Sessions is considered positive on Israel, Frost was viewed as a leader on that and other Jewish issues.

Jewish leaders will also say goodbye to several other lawmakers who worked with them, including Sen.

Tom Daschle (D-S.D.), the Senate minority leader, and a few Democratic House members from Texas, who also lost as a result of Republican redistricting, similar to Frost.

Daschle worked well with Jewish leaders as the Democratic leader, but Jewish activists say his possible successors all have good track records as well. Daschle lost to former Rep. John Thune.

Florida state Sen. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, a rising star in the Democratic Party, won the seat vacated by another Jewish congressman, Rep. Peter Deutsch, her mentor.

Wasserman Schultz said she is excited to represent South Florida and would focus on homeland security as well as other domestic issues.

"I'm a reflection of my district," Wasserman Schultz told JTA from her election headquarters Tuesday evening. "This is a

*Continued on page 2*

**AMERICA  
DECIDES  
2004**

## ■ Two Jewish Democratic women are joining Congress

*Continued from page 1*

community that is passionate about Israel and human services issues.”

Wasserman Schultz was heavily favored to win her seat in a heavily Democratic area. She defeated Margaret Hostetter.

At age 38, Wasserman Schultz has served in both houses of the Florida legislature, is on the regional board of the American Jewish Congress and helped to form the National Jewish Democratic Council.

Pennsylvania state Sen. Allyson Schwartz also won Tuesday, defeating Melissa Brown.

In the Philadelphia area, Schwartz defeated Melissa Brown on Tuesday. Schwartz will replace Rep. Joseph Hoeffel (D-Pa.), who ran against Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) for the Senate.

“We ran a smart, modern campaign,” Schwartz told supporters Tuesday night. “We raised the money, and we communicated with voters any way that we could. We knocked on doors, and then we knocked on some more doors.”

Schwartz counter-charged that Brown committed insurance fraud with her husband when they founded a doctor-owned HMO.

■  
In the Senate, Specter won his fifth term Tuesday, defeating Hoeffel, one of his strongest challengers since first winning his seat in 1980. The Jewish Republican had defeated Rep. Pat Toomey in the Republican primary.

Specter’s victory is important because he is one of few Jewish Republicans in Congress, and he has the most seniority among them. He is expected to chair the Senate Judiciary Committee next year, which could play a pivotal role in approv-

ing federal and U.S. Supreme Court judges.

Four other Jewish senators won re-election handily — Sens. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), Russell Feingold (D-Wisc.) and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.).

Other than Frost, all other Jewish incumbents won election, many against only token challengers.

Sen. George Voinovich (R-Ohio) defeated a Jewish candidate, Eric Fingerhut, to win re-election. Fingerhut is a former member of the House of Representatives.

In Florida, Jan Schneider was unsuccessful in a second attempt to defeat Rep. Katherine Harris (R-Fla.), known for her work as Florida’s secretary of state in the controversial 2000 recount.

In New Hampshire, Paul Hodes, a Jewish Democrat, lost a bid against the incumbent Republican, Rep. Charles Bass.

In Virginia, David Ashe was unsuccessful in his race to replace Rep. Edward Schrock (R-Va.). Ashe, a Jewish Democrat, lost to Thelma Drake, a member of Virginia’s House of Delegates. Ashe had little political experience but served with the Marines in Iraq.

■  
Jewish officials say they are energized about some of the new members of the Senate, including Barack Obama, who easily defeated Alan Keyes in Illinois.

While in the Illinois state senate, Obama worked to improve black-Jewish relations in the state and has advocated stronger U.S. engagement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

And several of the new Republican members of the Senate are considered strong friends of Israel, such as Rep. Jim DeMint in South Carolina, Rep. Johnny

Isakson of Georgia and Rep. Richard Burr in North Carolina.

The same is being said about the new Colorado senator, Democrat Ken Salazar.

But in Oklahoma, many Jews are likely to be concerned about the election of former Rep. Tom Coburn, a Republican, to the state’s open Senate seat. Coburn, an obstetrician, is staunchly against abortion, and was plagued by charges that he sterilized a woman without her consent, and by recent comments suggesting “lesbianism” is rampant in state schools.

■  
Similar concerns have been raised about Rep. David Vitter, who won an open election in Louisiana. Vitter is seen as a conservative lawmaker as well, and has campaigned against abortion and gambling.

Coburn also was against foreign aid when he served in the House of Representatives, and has not said he would back it in the Senate. Pro-Israel groups supported his opponent, Rep. Brad Carson (D-Okla.).

Jews are also watching the return of Cynthia McKinney, a former congresswoman who made headlines with anti-Israel statements. McKinney won the Democratic nomination for her old seat in July, and won her heavily Democratic district Tuesday.

Democrats said they hope McKinney will moderate her anti-Israel rhetoric.

McKinney was able to return to the House in part because Rep. Denise Majette (D-Ga.) did not seek re-election this year, choosing to challenge Isakson for the open Senate seat. Majette was heavily supported by Jewish donor in 2002, but did not receive similar support from Jews this time around. ■

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JTA WORLD REPORT is published five days a week, except holidays, by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Inc., 330 Seventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 10001-5010. For more information about how to subscribe by e-mail, fax or regular mail, call (212) 643-1890, or visit our Web site at [www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org).  
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**Kerry/Bush Jewish Votes**

76%

24%

**A national exit poll reported by CNN shows U.S. Jews favoring Sen. John Kerry over President Bush by 76 percent to 24 percent, a gain for Bush compared to the 19 percent of the Jewish vote he won in 2000.**

# At polls across U.S., Jews cast their votes

By JTA Staff

PHILADELPHIA (JTA) — In the leafy Philadelphia suburb of Bala Cynwyd, Amy Feldman stood in line, two young children clutching at her waist, ready to cast her vote for U.S. president.

"I'm voting for George Bush because he's stronger on Israel and that's my No. 1 issue," said the 35-year-old attorney on Tuesday.

But Feldman appeared to be a minority — not only among Jews interviewed at two polling stations in Montgomery County, Pa., one of the Philadelphia suburban regions deemed critical to winning the coveted 21 electoral votes in the swing state of Pennsylvania, but among Jewish voters across the United States.

Although Jews make up a small percentage of the overall U.S. vote, many of the states seen as crucial in the election — Florida and Ohio, as well as Pennsylvania — have significant Jewish populations.

Both campaigns spent unprecedented resources to target Jewish voters.

The president has made a concerted attempt to woo the Jewish vote, hoping to improve on the 19 percent he garnered against Al Gore in 2000. But despite his best efforts, Jews appeared once again to be overwhelmingly backing a Democrat, this time Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.).

For Efrat Aharonowich, a New Yorker in her mid-40s, deciding who to support was a tough call.

"I was considering Bush because of his fondness for Israel, but I thought that overall, for the direction of this country, I had to vote for Kerry," said Aharonowich, who has dual U.S.-Israeli citizenship.

"On the one hand I want Bush for Israel, but on the other hand, as an American, I want Kerry to win. But if it is Bush, I think I'll be happy."

But for lifelong Democrat Jack Lichtenstein, the choice was easy.

"I didn't need another Messiah. I didn't need somebody who speaks to God to makes decisions about my country," said the 81-year-old resident of New York's Upper West Side, who pulled the lever for Kerry on Tuesday.

Bush's strong belief in the role of religion in public life was only one of the issues that motivated many Jewish voters: the war in Iraq, Israel's security and domestic concerns also ranked at the top of many voters' priorities for the next president.

Meryl Gindin of suburban Philadelphia is a staunch Democrat and Kerry supporter.

"I'm opposed to the war and all the spending abroad; we need to focus our energy at home — on jobs and health care," said the 46-year-old local Democratic Committeewoman as she stood watch over her local polling station, a home for seniors, as she does every election.

Several Jews interviewed said the future make-up of the U.S. Supreme Court was a factor in their decision. The next president is likely to be in the position to appoint some new justices to a court that has been virtually split on cases related to abortion rights and church-state separation, issues that many Jews care about.

Kerry will "protect our court system," said Ariella Reback of the Pepper Pike suburb of Cleveland.

Cleveland stockbroker Don Jacobson, who described himself as "generally a conservative Republican," decided about three months ago that he would cast his vote for Kerry.

"I can't live with the way Bush is handling Iraq," he said.

The Republicans had been seen as making inroads among Orthodox Jews, and anecdotal evidence in Milwaukee bore that out.

For Rabbi Moshe Gilden, a scholar at the Milwaukee Kollel Center for Jewish Studies, one important set of issues in the election was morality.

Speaking just after morning minyan at Congregation Beth Jehudah, the 28-year-old said he believes Bush "will uphold morality in this country" because the president opposes gay marriage and abortion.

Kerry has stated that he, too, opposes gay marriage, but he supports gay civil unions and opposes a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

Both parties have worked assiduously to demonstrate their credentials on Israel — and there's no doubt that for many Jewish voters, Israel is an important factor.

"It's amazing that women" in my Hadasah chapter are "100 percent for Israel, and I don't understand why they want to vote for Kerry," said Lotte Retig, 81, who was reading the latest issue of Hadasah magazine as she waited in line to vote in an apartment

building in New York City. "Bush has done everything for Israel."

But many voters said they saw both candidates as being strong on Israel.

"I don't think any major-party candidate in America is going to be bad for Israel, so that wasn't a factor," said Max Weisenfeld, a mid-40s resident of Maplewood, N.J.

"Besides, I don't vote in a federal election based on Israel's interests," said Weisenfeld, echoing the sentiments expressed by many of those interviewed.

With California safely in the Kerry column, many Jewish partisans from there on both sides

of the aisle took off to neighboring states for last-minute missionary work.

Journalists Ivor and Sally Davis drove from their home in Ventura, Calif., to spend Sunday through Tuesday in Las Vegas and outlying communities in Nevada to stump for the Democrats.

In Las Vegas, the pro-Kerry Americans Coming Together had set up a huge tent, expecting about 700 out-of-state volunteers, but were swamped by 1,600, mostly from Southern California.

"We focused on the overcrowded, run-down apartments in the shadows of luxurious hotels, where the Latino and Asian residents worked as kitchen help and maids," Ivor Davis said.

"Most of the registered people we talked to were obviously poor, so we talked about the importance of raising the minimum wage for low-paid workers," he said.

"We made some headway, but a couple of families told us they would vote for Bush, because Kerry's wife was 'too bossy.' Go figure."

Jews, as always, made sure they went to the polls — even those who did so with difficulty.

Lillian Heller, a native of Paterson, N.J., currently living in West Palm Beach, Fla., fell and broke her hip and wrist 10 days before the election. She was rushed to the hospital and had immediate surgery.

After she regained consciousness, her first words to her daughter were: "Susan, you must bring my absentee ballot to the intensive care unit so I can vote for Kerry in time."

**'I didn't need somebody who speaks to God to makes decisions about my country.'**

**Jack Lichtenstein**  
New York voter

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## MIDDLE EAST

### This isn't love

Israel said it would not apologize to the head of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees.

Peter Hansen, head of UNRWA, had asked for an apology after Israel mistakenly claimed that a stretcher thrown into one of UNRWA's ambulances earlier this fall was a Kassam rocket.

"The fact that there was one video in which there was a mistake does not exonerate UNRWA when we have issued indictments against 13 of its members," Ra'anana Gissin, a spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said Tuesday.

In a breakfast meeting Tuesday with members of the U.N. Correspondents Association, Hansen accused Israel of conducting a smear campaign against his agency and crippling its work by destroying its property, blocking aid convoys and keeping Palestinians from work.

Israel has claimed that UNRWA is biased toward the Palestinians and has turned a blind eye to terrorist-related activities in its facilities.

### Bomber's home razed

Israeli forces demolished the home of a Palestinian suicide bomber who killed three people at a Tel Aviv market.

Troops and tanks rolled into the Askar refugee camp near the West Bank city of Nablus on Tuesday, razing the family home of the teenaged terrorist.

They also destroyed houses belonging to his dispatchers from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The PFLP attack on Monday killed three people at the Carmel Market.

Military sources said Israeli forces around Nablus had been boosted out of concern that local terrorists could try another attack.

### Palestinian toll high in October

Israel killed more Palestinians in October than in any other month since the intifada began four years ago.

According to Ha'aretz, 165 Palestinians were killed, 159 of them in the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group says 148 Palestinians were killed, while the Palestinian Red Crescent says 142.

Most of the dead were fighters in terrorist organizations.

Israel launched an operation in Gaza last month to stop Palestinian rocket attacks on southern Israeli towns.

Israel is preparing to withdraw from Gaza next year as part of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's disengagement plan.

### Suicide bomber's mom slams recruiters

The mother of the teenaged suicide bomber who killed three people in a Tel Aviv market Monday slammed the terrorists who recruited her son.

Samira Abdullah, 45, mother of 16-year-old bomber Amar al-Far, told reporters that those who recruited and dispatched her son made a mistake "in taking advantage of someone too young to understand the meaning of his actions."

Three Israelis were killed in the attack on the Carmel Market.

### Palestinian lyncher sentenced to life

A Palestinian involved in lynching two Israeli soldiers was sentenced to life in jail.

On Sunday, an Israeli military court sentenced Jihad A-Karim Azziz Rom, 26, of Ramallah to life and an additional 20 years for his role in the lynching of Yosef Avraham and Vadim Nourezitz in October 2000 in Ramallah.

Rom also participated in the murder of Israeli teenager Yuri Goshitzin in July 2001.

## WORLD

### Show me the money

France is refusing to say who would foot Yasser Arafat's hospital bill.

Some legislators have begun questioning who would pay for Arafat's stay at a hospital near Paris, where he has been undergoing tests for a blood disorder since last Friday.

On Tuesday, the Union of Jewish Employees and Professionals, a pro-Israel lobby group, said in a statement that it was "one thing for France to provide care for Yasser Arafat, but it's another if some taxpayer is paying the bill.

"That is why we are calling on the government to publicly announce the cost of this operation."

### Filmmaker killed in Amsterdam

A Dutch filmmaker who received death threats after releasing a movie critical of the treatment of women under Islam was killed Tuesday in Amsterdam.

A 26-year-old man with Dutch-Moroccan nationality, suspected of shooting and stabbing filmmaker Theo van Gogh, was arrested Tuesday after a shootout with officers that left him wounded, police said.

Van Gogh had been threatened after "Submission," which he made with a right-wing Dutch politician who had renounced the Islamic faith of her birth, was released in August.

Van Gogh had received police protection after the release.

### IAEA to host Middle East forum

The head of the U.N.'s nuclear agency will set up a forum next year to help build nuclear verification measures in the Middle East.

"Based on my consultations with the states of the region, including during my recent visit to Israel, I intend to organize such a forum early next year, and further consultations are in progress toward that end," Mohammed ElBaradei, director of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said Monday in his annual report to the U.N. General Assembly.

"I earnestly hope for this forum to be the beginning of a much-needed dialogue among states of the region on a security structure that would undergird efforts to reach a comprehensive settlement in that region."

## NORTH AMERICA

### Stickers stick it to Kerry

Lawn signs supporting John Kerry in Miami Beach were defaced with stickers associating the Democratic candidate with Yasser Arafat.

A number of Kerry-Edwards signs in a Jewish neighborhood had "Arafat-endorsed" stickers placed on them over the weekend, though the Palestinian Authority president did not publicly endorse any candidate.

### B'nai Brith Canada official out

A B'nai Brith official in Canada who called Israeli-sponsored "state terrorism" an acceptable way to defend its citizens apologized and resigned.

Adam Aptowitz, Ontario chairman of the B'nai Brith Institute for International Affairs, told "The Michael Coren Show," a television show, that "state terrorism" that is "being done to prevent deaths" is not wrong.

Aptowitz resigned after criticism from Canadian Arab and Muslim groups. B'nai Brith Canada said in a statement that it does not believe Israeli actions against Palestinian violence constitute state-sponsored terrorism.