A Revolution in the World Zionist Congress!

The Orthodox Israel Coalition – Mizrachi sees extraordinary gains in the World Zionist Congress election

After an exhausting yet inspiring election campaign, following months of planning, engaging and educating communities across America, something historic has happened for Religious Zionists in America.

The Mizrachi-led Orthodox Israel Coalition more than doubled its numbers and placed second among the 15 slates who ran in the US.

The World Zionist Congress is considered the “parliament” of the Jewish people. Elections are held just once every five years. Choosing the 152 US delegates (out of approximately 500) is the primary opportunity for Jews living in America to impact major decisions being made in Israel.

American Zionists represent around one third of the overall delegates to the World Zionist Congress. Another third is from Israel and the remaining third from around the world. There are elections and/or negotiations taking place now in other Zionist Federations around the world, where Mizrachi represents the Orthodox community as it has done for almost 120 years. All these delegates come together to represent the global Religious Zionist Movement, and to make the biggest difference we can in Israel and around the world through the impact of our Religious Zionist values.

In this election, the Orthodox Israel Coalition recognized that it was about the ability to impact nearly $1 billion in funds and direct them as much as possible to reflect the values of Torat Eretz Yisrael.

It was only five years ago that the Mizrachi Vote Torah slate garnered 9,594 in the World Zionist Congress Election. Today, we are humbled and grateful that 21,698 people voted for the Orthodox Israel Coalition!

This success is due to a tremendous team effort made by a powerful, unified coalition of organizations, community leaders, ambassadors and a network of grassroots activists. Achdut was and will continue to be a key component to our success. Our partners – RZA-Mizrachi, AMIT, the Orthodox Union, Yeshiva University, Bnei Akiva, RCA, Touro College, National Conference of Young Israel and Torah MiTzion – stepped up and worked collaboratively towards advancing the Zionist values of our faith.

For the first time in history, the Orthodox Israel Coalition, together with other Orthodox and traditional slates, has achieved a majority of American delegates in the halls of the World Zionist Congress.

This must be understood in a historical context. The American representation in the World Zionist Congress has, until this election, been heavily weighted in favor of Reform, Conservative and more pluralistic voices in the American community.

Of the 123,000 people who voted in the US in this election, well over half are affiliated with right-leaning and Orthodox movements. This is a change of epic proportions that can be likened to the 1977 revolution in Israeli politics, when Menachem Begin came into power. That was termed “The Revolution,” as after 30 years of a Labor-run country, the seemingly impossible happened. The more right-wing and traditional Jewish and Orthodox movements became the majority, forming the government and playing a major role in leading the country.

In other words, the bastion of the liberal and pluralistic Jewish and political movements – which have dominated the American Zionist scene till now – has shifted direction and will be led by the Orthodox Israel Coalition.

“These results show the dedication and commitment of Religious Zionists to play a proactive role in shaping the future of Jewish destiny. We are deeply grateful to all our Coalition partners and to the hundreds of Rabbis, community leaders and activists who served as our ambassadors and worked so hard to achieve this outstanding result,” said Rav Doron Perez, Chief Executive of the Mizrachi World Movement.