

# DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY



## Rabbi Avi Berman Executive Director, OU Israel

As many of you know, the OU is an apolitical organization. While I agree and fully support the OU's decision to be apolitical, on a personal level, it is challenging not to be able to share my political views since I am very passionate about the State of Israel and our government. Yet, ever since assuming the role of OU Israel's Executive Director, I have not even told anyone who I vote for.

I fully believe that if we want people to gain from our Derech, our Shiurim and publications, we need to refrain from politics. As we approach our fourth round of elections, I'd like to share a dilemma which we face each time there is an election in the State of Israel. For those of you that come across the Hebrew language Shabbat publications, you probably noticed that they have many political ads. We respect anybody that chooses to place these ads, but we made a conscious decision not to. There is significant money to be made from political ads, but we feel very strongly

that Torah Tidbits is not the place for them.

If you read my column regularly, you already know that Torah Tidbits is hurting financially due to a decrease in ads since the start of the corona pandemic. (I once again thank each and everyone of you that donated to our recent campaign from the bottom of my heart as well as encourage you to support the businesses that advertise with us). Yet, we have made the conscious decision that the essence of a Torah publication is not the place for politics. For starters, being apolitical, we would need to open the publication up to ads from any politician or political party, and there will always be criticism about why one ad was placed before the other, or why one politician was on the right side and another on the left. But more importantly, we want Torah Tidbits to focus on Torah and not Chas V'Shalom become a reason for political strife in our community. We want you to understand that everything in TT is to inspire each and every one of you, our valued readers.

We are extremely blessed that Am Yisrael is living in our Jewish Homeland. We are



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the fulfillment of the prophecies taking place. It is truly beautiful to live in a Jewish State and be able to vote for the party that resonates with each of us the most. I am grateful for the freedom of speech which enables the politicians to share their platforms, but there is a space for politics and a different space for Torah.

It is a privilege and a Mitzvah to vote for our political leaders. I want to be clear just because the OU is apolitical and does not get involved in the elections, it's not a statement on our attitude towards voting. We encourage everyone to go out and vote and help shape Israel's future.

As always, I would love to hear your feedback about my weekly column in general and this topic in specific ([aberman@ouisrael.org](mailto:aberman@ouisrael.org)). Wishing all of us to see a lot of Achdut during this election. B'ezrat Hashem it should be the last election for at least four years.



Avi  
Executive Director, OU Israel

לעילוי נשמת אבינו היקר  
יהושע שמואל בן דוד צבי ופעסל ע"ה  
May the Torah learning in this issue be  
dedicated in loving memory of our father

**Joshua S. Weintraub z"l**

On his 25th yartzeit

ח' שבט

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