

Chairs' Ruling on Complaint from Eretz HaKodesh filed on April 10, 2025

Upon consideration of the complaint filed by Eretz HaKodesh regarding instances where speakers, solicitors and others promoting the ARZA slate have informed potential voters that they may vote in the WZO election if they “identify as Jewish,” and the extensive briefing and materials submitted by EHK and ARZA on the issue, we do not find a violation of the election rules.

The AEC intentionally avoided the “Who is a Jew” question in formulating the election rules and determined that it would be sufficient for voters to self-certify that they are Jewish and don’t subscribe to another religion. As such, how a person “identifies” is not material.

While EHK disagrees with the terminology used by some ARZA promoters to encourage people to register and vote, the ultimate responsibility falls on the voter himself or herself, who must certify, on the registration portal, that they are Jewish and don’t subscribe to another religion, irrespective of how they “identify.” Moreover, we note that “identifying” as Jewish is not at all inconsistent with being Jewish, and that most Jews identify as Jewish.

For the foregoing reasons, we dismiss the EHK complaint against ARZA on this issue and close this matter.

Judge (ret.) Abraham Gafni & David J. Butler, AEC Chairs

April 18, 2025