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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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YOUNG ISRAEL STATEMENT ON THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS

The National Council of Young Israel (NCYI) issued the following statement today following yesterday's elections in Israel:

The National Council of Young Israel extends its warmest congratulations to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for his strong showing in yesterday's elections. With an incredibly high percentage of Israelis exercising their democratic right to vote and casting their ballot at the polls, the victory by Prime Minister Netanyahu and his colleagues in the Likud Party is a testament to the fact that the Prime Minister's message about ensuring the safety and security of the State of Israel clearly resonated among a significant portion of the electorate.

As Mr. Netanyahu endeavors to form a new government and prepares to continue his tenure as Prime Minister, we respectfully urge him to stay true to the positions that he advocated during the course of his campaign. We implore him to stand firm and reject any pressure to accede to calls for the creation of a Palestinian state, as we believe that an independent Palestinian state would merely compound the complex problems that currently exist and open the door to a new wave of acts of terror directed at innocent Israeli civilians. In addition, we urge Prime Minister Netanyahu not to cede any of Israel's land to the Palestinians and hope that he will continue working to hold the land of Israel in trust for future generations. Further, we are certain that the Prime Minister will continue to remain at the forefront of the Iran nuclear issue and will do all that he can to blunt the threat that a nuclear-armed Iran poses to the State of Israel and its citizenry.

On behalf of our more than 25,000 member families, and approximately 200 branch synagogues throughout the United States, Canada, and Israel, we wish Prime Minister Netanyahu a heartfelt Mazal Tov on his electoral triumph and extend to him our blessing for yet another successful and productive term in office.

For the past 102 years, the National Council of Young Israel has ably served the broader Jewish community. With more than 25,000 member families and nearly 200 branch synagogues throughout the United States, Canada, and Israel, the National Council of Young Israel is a multi-faceted organization that embraces Jewish communal needs and often takes a leading role in tackling the important issues that face the Jewish community in North America and Israel.