



**REGIONAL BOARD
ELECTION PACKET**

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Important Deadlines

March 13	Candidate Information Form, Contract and Counterpart Certification
March 20	Video Speeches and Qualification Sheets
April 3	Virtual Elections

Further guidelines for candidates, including details about recording speeches, will be emailed to all candidates after their initial materials are submitted.

A confirmation email will be sent within 24-48 hours to confirm that all the following forms and files have been received and are legible.

Questions should be directed to emessinger@urj.org and par-president@nfty.org

Candidate Checklist

- [Candidate Information Form, Contract and Counterpart Certification](#) (online form)

Before you begin this form, please have the documents below ready to upload.

1. Letter of Intent - Please see Page 7 for more information about Letters of Intent.
2. Brief Bio – 75 words or less
3. Digital photo of yourself - 1” wide by 2” high 150 dpi

- [Parent/Guardian Certification](#) (online form - email this link to parent or guardian)

- [Synagogue Professional Certification](#) (online form - email this link to synagogue professional)

Contact Information for current Regional Board members

President	Anna Schwartz	par-president@nfty.org
Programming VP	Sophie Kravatz	par-pvp@nfty.org
Social Action VP	Maddy Denker	par-savp@nfty.org
Religious & Cultural VP	Lex Winitsky	par-rcvp@nfty.org
Membership VP	Mia Fremder	par-mvp@nfty.org
Fundraising VP	Ezra Briskin	par-fvp@nfty.org
Communications VP	Lucas Golluber	par-cvp@nfty.org

Letter from your Area Manager and Regional President

Dear Candidate,

Mazel Tov on your decision to run for a regional board position! You have already completed your first task as a candidate...deciding to run for office. It is exciting to know that the future of our region lies in the hands of such enthusiastic leaders. It is important that you understand the many duties and obligations required of the seven Regional Board positions. All require dedication, a significant amount of your time, and a financial commitment. Please read over this material with your parent/guardian and your TYG advisor and discuss with them what being on regional board will mean for you.

As a Regional Board member, you will be held to a higher standard than the other NFTYites. You will be expected to always follow and uphold the B'rit Kehillah during all NFTY programs, and failure to do so may result in removal from regional board along with additional consequences. You are expected to set a good example at all TYG and regional events, North American events, and URJ summer programs. Your peers are the body of people who will vote you into office and they will hold you responsible for your actions and your duties.

In order to officially run for office, you will need to send back the Regional Board Contract. It is mandatory that you, your parent/guardian, your local advisor and your congregational Rabbi sign this contract, which will be in effect throughout your term. Your signature on the contract states that you understand the responsibilities associated with being on Regional Board and are willing to meet all expectations if elected. To be considered as a candidate, all election documents must be received by the deadline. The application process for Regional Board requires that you speak with the person currently holding any position for which you may run. This may seem like a lot of work just to run but remember that being on the regional board is a big responsibility. If you are unable to make this deadline, please take the time to consider if you will you be able to juggle the demands of school, home, and NFTY.

Keep in mind that you will be pre-recording a short speech (5 minutes for presidential candidates, 4 minutes for all other positions) which will be shared online, and we will hold a Meet the Candidates session virtually prior to elections.

We am looking forward to next year! This is an amazing region, and we want to make next year even better than this year has been. The role of each board member will be very important. We have high expectations for all board members to work hard and shine as leaders!

Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have about running for Regional Board.

L'Shalom,

Emily Messinger
East Area Manager
emessinger@urj.org
Anna Schwartz
NFTY-PAR President

INTENT TO RUN

Who is eligible?

Any Jewish teen who is a participant in good standing of NFTY-PAR is eligible. A qualified candidate must be committed, optimistic and enthusiastic about having a hands-on impact on Reform Jewish Youth.

What is the financial obligation?

1. Board members will be expected to attend and pay for regional events. While we are still in a global pandemic, we do not know when in-person events will resume, or how our budget will be affected. The URJ is committed to ensuring that no teen is prevented from attending due to financial constraints.
2. Participation in NFTY North American programming. These are important North American events where our board members serve as voting delegates for the region. Again, we do not know the course of the current global health crisis, and therefore we cannot assess the costs of future events. Again, we are committed to ensuring that no teen is prevented from attending due to financial constraints.
3. Depending on your child's position on the regional board, they may be asked to purchase supplies, copies, etc., and then be reimbursed. Once receipts are submitted, reimbursement checks should be sent within one month of receipt. All expenses must be approved by NFTY staff prior to purchase.

What are the other expectations of Regional Board Members?

Role Model – Recognize that members of the region look to you to set an example. Be aware of your behavior and attitude at all times, even when you are not actively leading. Think about how you portray yourself on social media. Lead by example, even more so when it comes to issues outlined in the [NFTY B'rit K'hillah](#).

Approachability – Regional Board members should be approachable. It is important to remember that you are here for the whole region. There are always new people to meet and get to know.

Attendance – As a role model, you should be attending regional events, NFTYx regional programs, NFTY North American events, and other URJ programs (when applicable). School and family should always be your first priority, but by running for NFTY Regional Board you are making a commitment that your NFTY Region will be your primary extra-curricular activity.

Communication – It is expected that you will maintain open lines of communication with your fellow board members, NFTY Area Manager and Board Coach.

NFTY's Brit Kehillah – Code of Conduct

There is an expectation that all North American Board members will follow and uphold our NFTY Brit Kehillah. You can find a copy of the Brit [here](#).

Events for all Board Members & Important Dates

Due to the COVID-19 Health Crisis, NFTY events remain virtual. Once it is safe to meet in person, we hope to resume in-person events. Please continue to check our website, social media and emails to stay up to date.

Positions

- President
- Programming Vice President
- Social Action Vice President
- Religious and Cultural Vice President
- Membership Vice President
- Fundraising Vice President
- Communications Vice President

Position Responsibilities

Please read the [regional constitution](#) to see a detailed description of the regional board election process, job descriptions, and expectations. Please read the [position description document](#) to hear the advice that the 2020-2021 board has to give regarding the new NFTY set-up.



Election Process

Campaigning

As per the NFTY Regional Constitution, campaigning is not allowed prior to or during the elections weekend. Any candidate that participates in campaigning will be disqualified.

Getting to Know the Candidates

- Each candidate will have a letter of intent, speech, short biography (75 words or less), qualification sheet, and photo posted on the NFTY regional website (nfty.org) prior to elections.
- TYG members in attendance of elections will have the opportunity to learn more about candidates during a “Meet the Candidates” forum on the day of elections. Details about this forum will be provided to candidates two weeks prior to elections.
- Each candidate can create a qualification sheet to be virtually distributed during the “Meet the Candidates” session. **Qualification sheets must be limited to one page, single-sided for all candidates and must be submitted as a .pdf file by March 20.**

Letters of Intent

- Each candidate will write a letter stating their intent to run for NFTY Regional Board.
- Letters of Intent for candidates for President must be no longer than two pages. Letters of Intent should be no longer than one page for all other positions.
- All letters should have one-inch margins on all sides and be written in size 11 font ONLY.
- Save the file as a Microsoft Word file.

- A candidate’s Letter of Intent should include a basic summary of what they intend to do in the upcoming year, why it is important to the region, and any other relevant information. Candidates should submit a condensed version of your platform.
- It is recommended that this letter focus on the values your candidacy and term will encompass, not only ideas and projects you hope to accomplish. You should be thinking about the value you will add to the movement and the work you will do.
- After all letters have been submitted, your Area Manager may set up a meeting with you to review your platform before letters are published.
- Letters of Intent will be posted online alongside your speech and qualification sheet. If there is any information you would like kept confidential until your speech, do not include it in your letter. Since your Letter of Intent will become public domain, please do not use any personal information such as personal emails, social media accounts, screen names, or phone numbers.
- **Letters of Intent must be submitted by March 13**
- Example Letters of Intent can be found [here](#). Please only use these for format and structural inspiration, as you should be creating your own platform and ideas for your candidacy.

Speeches

- All speeches will be pre-recorded and published online prior to elections. Candidates will receive technical information on submitting a video speech within one week of the video speech deadline.
- **Speeches must be submitted by March 20.**
- Candidates may start working on the content of their speech at any time.
- Candidates for President are limited to a speech no longer than five minutes. Candidates for all other positions are limited to a speech no longer than four minutes.
- If you intend to drop down, it is your decision whether or not to mention so in your speech.

Elections

- Elections will proceed in gavel order.
- We are researching the best online voting process that will work for our elections process. More information will be provided prior to elections.
- The NFTY Constitution requires a simple majority to elect. (Please familiarize yourself with election procedures outlined in the Regional Constitution and the outcomes of each option.)
- Ballots will be processed by the current Regional President and the NFTY Area Manager or designated youth professional.
- Candidates will be informed of the outcome of the election by the current Regional President before results are announced to the Region.
- Results will be announced to the Region by close of business on election day.
- **Candidates will announce their intent to drop down during introductions during the beginning of elections.**

NFTY REGIONAL BOARD ELECTION GUIDELINES

Each of the following guidelines is subject to the discretion of the NFTY Leadership. We offer these guidelines to provide candidates with a clear understanding of what is and is not permissible. If you have a question about the appropriateness of any of your actions or materials – i.e., a potentially “gray area” – consult the Regional President or NFTY Area Manager.

What a Candidate Cannot Do (At Risk of Disqualification)

- Distribute material to any NFTYite that discusses the voting procedure to sway/affect that person's vote. (Material may educate about the candidate's platform, but may not say, for example, "vote for me," "I am the best candidate").
- Distribute or share inappropriate or negative material about any candidates.
- Contact – including by telephone, email, text messaging, social media, etc. – delegates or other NFTYites (including other candidates) to initiate conversation about the election and its process.
- Distribute material outside of the event during which elections are held (e.g., email delegates, post material pertaining to the election on blogs, social networking sites, snail mail material, etc.).
- Distribute material that is not paper based/written. Platform papers are allowed, but pins and other promotional material are not. Materials are meant to educate, not advertise. The ONLY permissible material to be shared is the platform paper, which may be shared during Meet the Candidates.
- Use network email threads, social media, or text groups as a forum for campaigning in any way.
- Contact delegates from other regions in an attempt to block vote. You represent the constituents of your region. During the election weekend, all Asefah participants (including candidates) are involved with their TYG caucus. Your vote should be reflective of what your TYG wants.