



September 2006

Dear Rabbi, Synagogue Leader, and Public Affairs Chair,

As we anticipate the upcoming election season, the Institute for Public Affairs of the Orthodox Union is urging synagogues across the country to play an active role in the political process. Orthodox Jews must be registered to vote in order to have their voices heard. We have designated **Selichot** night, Motza'ei Shabbat, September 16th, 2006, as a **Voter Registration Mobilization night**.

The demographics of our community in American society are changing and it is of utmost importance that we maintain our ability to shape public policy by our vote. Therefore, we call on you as a Jewish leader to help mobilize those in your community by leading a voter registration campaign in your synagogue. Chairpersons of Social or Political Action Committees should play a leading role. NCSYers or other youth groups can be enlisted to assist you.

A simple, organized campaign will be successful if you implement the following plan:

1. **Contact your local Board of Elections** as soon as possible to have voter registration forms sent to your synagogue for the drive and for congregants to pick up at any time. A list of Board of Elections is enclosed.
2. **On Selichot night, set up a table, manned by members of your synagogue's IPA Committee and/or NCSYers, to provide information and instructions on how to register.** They can contact us at the number below for information. This is an opportune time to disseminate other political/public affairs materials, such as prepared letters to the President and Members of Congress on issues of concern or action briefings concerning Israel and other affairs, which we can provide.

A list of **Talking Points** and other material, which can be used as is or adapted in order to emphasize the importance of the campaign can be found at www.ou.org/public/vote/2005/default.htm. A list of local Boards of Election is included in the appendix of the Action Manual.

Voter registration is crucial to the ability of our community to protect our interests in the public arena. If we do not vote, we have no voice. In the interest of making a big difference for Klal Yisrael, please be in touch and let us know how we can help you run a successful campaign. You can contact the Institute for Public Affairs at (202) 513-6484 or at (212) 613-8311.

Sincerely,

Mark Bane

Nathan Diament

Howie Beigelman

Chairman



Deputy Director