Call with Us: Three Calls for Equality, Freedom, and the Vote

Join us for a special edition of Call with Us focused on the power of personal relationships to strengthen our democracy and protect LGBTQ+ equality. Together, we will call those important to us to encourage them to vote in the upcoming election. As LGBTQ+ Jews and allies, we are working towards a world where LGBTQ+ people are treated with the dignity, safety, and humanity we all deserve; that means ensuring our voices are heard by voting in elections.

What is the current LGBTQ+ landscape? Why is this happening?

- Over the past several years, LGBTQ+ people have experienced hostile legislation in all areas of their existence. **This is a shock-and-awe campaign** targeting a wide range of rights and services.
- In 2026, **834** anti-LGBTQ+ bills have already been filed in **43** states.
    - **63** bills have passed
    - **295** are active
    - **476** bills failed
- Overall, it is clear that **Anti-LGBTQ+ legislation is not a winning strategy**, with many bills failing and being deemed unconstitutional.
- In the 2026 election, **five states** will have voters decide on ballot measures impacting trans youth.
    - **Arizona, Colorado, Nebraska, and Washington** will vote on whether or not to establish sex-based requirements for **trans participation on school athletic teams.**
    - **Colorado and Missouri** will also vote on whether or not to prohibit certain **medical and surgical procedures** for transgender minors, despite the fact that these procedures are exceedingly rare, and in the case of Missouri, have already been banned since 2023.

Jewish Perspective:

- **Our Jewish value: *Ezrachut* Civic Engagement guides us in getting out the Vote.**
    - It is a Jewish imperative to make our voices heard in civic matters. A Midrash teaches, “if a person sits in their home and says to themselves, ‘What have the affairs of society to do with me?’… they [destroy] the world.’” (Midrash Tanchuma Mishpatim 2:1). We are called to take action regardless of whether or not we are personally impacted by harm.
- **LGBTQ+ nondiscrimination is extremely popular**
    - 82% of American Jews support LGBTQ+ nondiscrimination (PRRI, 2025)
- **Our Jewish value *Lo Libatel*: Persistence guides us to keep fighting for LGBTQ+ equality, even when it is challenging.**
    - Sometimes it seems that the systems of LGBTQ+ oppression are too deeply rooted and enormous to ever dismantle. Yet every action we take makes a

difference, even when the path towards progress is not linear. Rabbi Tarfon used to teach, “it is not [entirely] on you to complete the work, yet you are not free to desist from it” (Pirkei Avot 2:16). We take this teaching to heart, understanding that our contribution is imperfect, but that each individual action moves us toward the greater good.

Call your connections:
Opening message:
Hi _____, how are you? I’m calling because the 2026 elections are on November 3, and I want to make sure you have all the information you need to vote in the upcoming midterm elections. As a Jewish person guided by my values, I believe everyone should have the opportunity to vote. Do you know if your voter registration is up to date? You can register to vote, check your registration status, and look up what’s on the ballot at vote411.org

Scenarios:
If they respond yes, I am registered to vote and have a voting plan:
That’s great to hear, thank you for voting! Can you text or call 3 friends to remind them to check their registration status and vote?

If they respond yes, I will share with 3 friends:
Thank you so much! I am currently volunteering with Jews for a Secular Democracy and Keshet. They have a lot of upcoming Get Out the Vote opportunities; would you like to volunteer together? I can send you Keshet’s Get Out the Vote webpage, and we can plan a day: keshetonline.org/gotv**.**

If they respond saying no, I am not voting, or that they are unsure if they want to vote: I understand it can feel like voting isn’t important or that your vote doesn’t matter, but there are many important issues on the ballot for this upcoming election. It is important that all people’s voices are heard. I personally vote because _____.

If they ask who to vote for:
I am volunteering with a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and can’t endorse specific candidates. You can learn more about what is on the ballot at vote411.org

Closing:
Thank you so much for taking the time to chat with me! It means a lot to me that you took the time to hear why voting is important to me. I look forward to talking soon.

Resources:
- Get out the Vote with Keshet
    - Join our upcoming Textbank Tuesdays weekly at 6:30 pm until November 3
- Tracking Anti-Trans legislation

- Talking about Anti-LGBTQ+ legislation through a Jewish lens