

Jewish Voice for Peace Board of Directors: The Role of the Board and Expectations of its Members

The Board oversees and ensures JVP's fulfillment of its mission. The Board steers the organization towards a sustainable future through sound ethical and legal governance and financial management, by ensuring JVP has adequate resources to advance its mission, and by advancing JVP strategy and positions through work with staff leadership and other JVP constituencies.

Programmatic and day-to-day operational decisions are the province of JVP's Executive Director and its staff. The board and the Executive Director work in close partnership to achieve JVP's mission, vision, and strategic priorities.

While the Board is accountable to a range of stakeholders, including JVP members, staff, donors, and allies, its primary accountability is to the **mission** of JVP. As such, while working closely with the above constituencies, and relying on them for counsel, guidance, and deep expertise, the Board functions independently. This is a core principle of governance.

The role of the Board is to:

- Serve as a trusted partner and advisor to the ED in developing and implementing JVP's strategic vision and plans.
- Provide fiscal oversight of JVP, through regular review of financial reports, careful review and approval of the annual operating budget, review and approval of the annual audit, and review of any material financial decisions.
- Provide legal and ethical oversight of JVP, ensuring compliance with all relevant laws, and actively addressing such questions as they arise.
- Take a leadership role in fundraising.
- Evaluate the performance of the ED on an annual basis.
- Set and/or approve ED compensation.
- Select or dismiss the ED as necessary.
- Oversee the recruiting and nominations process for new Board Members, with input from the Nominating Committee.
- Represent JVP to stakeholders, and act as an ambassador for the organization.
- Support JVP's commitment to achieving a board and staff that reflects JVP's and the Jewish community's diversity.
- Act to ensure the sustainability of JVP as a legal, ethical, effective and financially sound organization, not only in the present but for the future.

Board Members are expected to:

- Be committed to the mission, values and strategy of JVP.
- Commit to Board unity. That does not mean no difference of opinion, it does mean to respect and uphold Board decisions.
- Conduct themselves in accordance with JVP core values and ethics.
- Attend board and committee meetings regularly, with a goal of attendance at a minimum of 10 of 12 annual meetings, and 2 out of 3 in-person meetings. Travel expenses are eligible for reimbursement.
- Attend JVP's National Member Meeting.
- Unfailingly honor and uphold confidentiality of all board communications and any other JVP matters so designated.
- Serve on a minimum of one standing or significant ad hoc committee per year, and reliably and substantially contribute to its work.
- Review and understand financial statements and budgets, and contribute to decision-making on financial issues, to ensure financial health, compliance, and prudent use of assets.
- Consider JVP a philanthropic priority and make annual gifts that reflect that priority.
- Actively participate in fundraising. At a minimum this means participation in JVP's bi-annual major donor solicitation program, but may also include donor cultivation, event hosting, personal appeals, and so on.
- Participate in all board governance and oversight obligations, as referenced above.
- Abide by all bylaws, policies and decisions of the Board and JVP, regardless of any personal differences or disagreements.
- Work effectively with JVP staff, when relevant, in a manner of respect; and understand board-staff boundaries.
- Be able to resolve differences through constructive discussion and board-led processes.
- Make decisions that are in the best interests of JVP.
- Promote the mission and goals of JVP through a range of activities, which will vary from member to member.