



Safety and Security Considerations for Jewish Communal Institutions During Election Season

As the United States undertakes a national election, it is assessed that election and campaign-related locations/activity may present an opportunity for ideologically-motivated violent extremists and other violent actors to threaten or engage in violence. Conditions related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic may increase tensions. Given these circumstances, and with hundreds of polling locations located at or near Jewish organization facilities across the country, it is imperative that the Jewish community takes a robust preparedness posture for our organizations and communities.

Top Ten Security Considerations to Prepare for the Upcoming Election

- 1 **Identify polling stations at or close to Jewish organizations** to have better situational awareness if any civil unrest occurs.
- 2 **Coordinate with law enforcement** prior to the election. Keep in mind, every state differs on security at polling stations, and organizations that act as a polling station should understand what the security measures may/may not entail. Organizations should recognize that different communities may receive the presence of law enforcement at polling locations differently, as well.
- 3 **Review who is viewing or posting** on any social media account or organizational website to identify [potential threats](#) prior to the election.
- 4 **Consider safety procedures** so that people waiting outside for entry are protected from street or parking lot access by vehicles.
- 5 **Ensure security procedures are in place**, and coordinated with relevant authorities to follow election law and voting guidelines with respect to access to polling stations; be sure that exits are clearly marked and not blocked in case egress is required.
- 6 **Report all suspicious behavior** to law enforcement immediately, and do not dismiss any sign of hate. Ensure staff and volunteers are trained to do so as well.
- 7 **Be prepared** to quickly [close/shudder your facility](#) in case of civil unrest.
- 8 **Collaborate with other inter-faith groups/organizations** to have a coordinated plan and response if any civil unrest occurs.
- 9 **Have a Crisis Communications Plan** to better provide information to employees, members, or congregants to quickly provide updates and courses of action, if necessary.
- 10 **Review or establish [Emergency Operations Procedures](#)** and ensure you discuss these procedures and the above considerations with your internal safety committees. Ensure all staff and key lay leaders understand any new plan designed.

SCN, working with local, state and federal law enforcement, is not aware of any specific, credible threats to the Jewish community, and related to the election, at this time.