

JVP Board FAQ



Frequently Asked Questions about Board Service and Board Nominations

How long is a board term?

Board members are elected to serve a 3-year term, with the option of running for one additional 3-year term, for a maximum of 6 years.

Who is eligible to serve on the board?

Any JVP member is eligible.

How are candidates chosen to appear on the ballot?

There are two ways for a member to appear on the ballot:

1. They have been recommended by the Nominations Committee, and endorsed by vote of a majority of the board. Sitting board members eligible for re-election are also voted on by the board in order to appear on the ballot.
2. They have been Members of JVP for at least one year and have been nominated by petition supported by at least seventy-five Members.

How much JVP leadership experience is required to serve on the board?

All JVP members are eligible for consideration. We look both to recognized leaders in our chapters, councils, committees and working groups; but also to members whose primary leadership has been demonstrated outside of JVP, but in contexts which complement, enrich, and advance our goals and effectiveness.

Is being Jewish a requirement?

Identifying as Jewish is not a requirement for board membership. What is required is an understanding of and a commitment to JVP as a Jewish organization that is inclusive of a range of Jewish identities as well as non-Jewish members.

What is the board's leadership stance?

As activists, we recognize that effective leadership is often exercised quietly, less visibly, behind-the-scenes, and in a collective spirit, as well as publicly and visibly. The leaders we seek:

- Inspire and motivate others around shared goals and vision.
- Possess and model core values of honesty, integrity, respect, inclusivity, equity, humility, and collaboration.
- Demonstrate a high level of accountability.
- Create cohesion and unity through respectful dialogue and active listening.
- Effectively balance the strategic and governance roles of the board.

What is the role of the Board?

The board provides financial, legal, and strategic governance oversight of JVP. While working closely with staff in pursuit of JVP's mission, the board also maintains a measure of independence to ensure alignment with mission, long-term sustainability, and sound, ethical stewardship of JVP's resources.

What does the Board do?

Here are some of the board's specific ongoing responsibilities and activities:

- Meets monthly:
 - With the ED; meeting agendas vary, consisting of updates on activities such as finance or nominations, emerging issues, strategic questions, campaigns, operational issues, and any urgent matters requiring discussion or decision-making.
- Meets in person for a full weekend, 3 times a year:
 - Travel required; usually one meeting is in NYC, other locations vary. We try to connect with chapters and members in the cities in which we meet.
 - Same mix of topics and issues as monthly, but time for deeper work and discussion on key political, strategic, positioning, process and other issues.
- Formal evaluation and compensation setting of the Executive Director
- Leadership/significant participation on fundraising - twice-yearly major donor campaigns + ongoing
- Monthly financial review
- Contribute to annual budget process, approve annual budget; approve mid-year revised budget.
- Review and accept annual audit and 990
- Set and/or approve organizational policies (bylaws revision, sabbatical, employee handbook, compensation, operating reserve...)
- With staff, monitor compliance with local, state and federal requirements
- Participate in annual board self-evaluation
- Participate in formulating and/or approving strategic and policy matters (eg 2014 strategic planning, BDS policy shift, Zionism statement, statement on antisemitism)

- ❑ Lead annual board nominations process
- ❑ Advise and guide ED on strategic, policy, operational, and legal matters that emerge on a regular basis
- ❑ Provide diverse perspectives from outside JVP (other Palestine solidarity work, other nonprofits, grassroots movements, organizing and movement organizations) that enhance learning and growth and accountability of JVP
- ❑ Assess and respond to organizational risk
- ❑ Board member expectations and role [here](#)

Individual board members contribute to and represent JVP in myriad ways, including as members of councils and working groups; writing, speaking and outreach; advice/expertise on specific campaigns, topics, organizational efforts (eg congressional work, digital security); provide expertise/participate in strategic focus areas (Jewish communities, campus organizing, legislative developments); liaise with peers, allies, donors.

What is the board most focused on right now?

In addition to ongoing priorities, such as financial oversight, fundraising, board nominations, and annual audit, priorities identified for this board term include:

- ❑ Finalize, launch and participate in rollout/messaging of JVP Statement on Zionism
- ❑ Planning for growth: developing multi-year planning budget and financial projections to ensure we have the resources to support our growth
- ❑ Strengthen the board's commitment to and competence in centering racial justice in JVP
- ❑ Exploration of a 501c4
- ❑ Strengthen the board's overall effectiveness and leadership

How is the board structured?

The standing, board-led committees are:

- ❑ Executive Committee: consisting of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, + ED
- ❑ Finance Committee: Treasurer, 2 board members, + staff
- ❑ Audit Committee: 1 board member, 1 JVP non-board member
- ❑ Nominations Committee: 2-3 board members, 2-3 JVP members, + staff

Board members also participate in or lead other standing or ad hoc working groups or committees, such as the Zionism Working Group, the Membership Committee, the Legislative Leadership Team.

What is the time commitment?

That will vary from person to person, and from month to month. Generally speaking, 10-20 hours per month, contingent on roles and workplan. It is a significant time commitment. That said, we understand the volunteer nature of board service, that we all have other commitments and priorities - so flexibility and mutual support are key values.

It is therefore important for prospective board members to know that, for some, joining the board may require stepping back from other JVP activities, including chapter work.

Many prospective board members have questions or concerns regarding capacity. It may be helpful to discuss them with a member of the board or the nominations committee.

What are the expectations for geographic representation on the board?

The board's role is not to *directly* represent members or chapters (with over 70 chapters, and members throughout the US and beyond, that is not possible); but is rather to be accountable to members, movement allies, and supporters, and ultimately to JVP's mission and values.

Current Board members hail from Chicago (2), DC (2), NYC (3), Maine (1), Ithaca (1) Las Vegas (1), Los Angeles (1), and Philadelphia (1). Geographic diversity is always one lens through which we view board representation. It's important -- but less so relative to other factors.

How does the board determine the slate of candidates?

The full board meets to discuss and then formally endorse a candidate or candidates from those qualified by the nominating committee. Criteria weighed by the board include:

- The recommendations from the Nominations Committee.
- Interviews and biographical statements.
- How well candidates fit the required and desirable qualifications, and the board profile
- How well the candidates might fill specific needs or gaps in board competencies or composition at a given time.
- Independently proffered input from board members, staff, members, allies.
- Solicited input from board members, staff, members, allies.

Can I get directly in touch with the board?

Members are invited to share feedback and ask questions by contacting board@jvp.org. We check the account about once a week, so if your question is urgent, please contact staff.