

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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Introduced: 5/13/25

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Proclaiming October 2025 as Jewish Heritage Month.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS**, from the dawn of civilization, the Jewish people have been pioneers of
4 religion, culture, prophecy, education, ethical values, freedom, social justice, and tolerance to
5 all mankind and have maintained a resilient cultural and religious identity for over 3,000
6 years, preserving rich traditions of faith, learning, service, and perseverance under
7 extraordinary historical circumstances and unimaginable hardships; and

8 **WHEREAS** Jewish Americans have helped shape the soul of the United States by
9 enriching the fields of science, law, education, medicine, commerce, and military service; and

10 **WHEREAS** the story of the state is also a Jewish story that includes immense
11 contributions to the state's civic life, leadership, and rich culture before statehood, including
12 the contribution to the purchase of the state from Russia, as well as a deep commitment to
13 justice, community, and the common good; and

14 **WHEREAS** Jewish people in the state have played vital roles in shaping the state,
15 including leaders of Jewish descent like Ernest Gruening, a champion of the path to statehood,
16 and countless others who have served with distinction as judges, educators, healers, business

1 owners, artists, and public servants; and

2 **WHEREAS** Jewish entrepreneurs, professionals, and community leaders have played
3 a vital role in shaping the state's economic and civic landscape by founding businesses,
4 medical practices, and philanthropic organizations that uplift communities across the state,
5 while also serving as steadfast voices for human dignity and the freedom of faith, which are
6 values that strengthen the moral foundation of the state and bind its people together in shared
7 purpose; and

8 **WHEREAS** institutions like the Alaska Jewish Museum, Alaska Jewish Campus -
9 Chabad-Lubavitch, Congregation Beth Sholom in Anchorage, Congregation Sukkat Shalom
10 in Juneau, Mat-Su Jewish Center - Chabad-Lubavitch in Palmer, Fairbanks Jewish Center -
11 Chabad-Lubavitch, and Congregation Or HaTzafon in Fairbanks have served as spiritual and
12 cultural centers for Jewish people in the state and as intercultural partners in promoting
13 understanding and justice; and

14 **WHEREAS** the heritage of Jewish people in the state is woven through the cultural
15 landscape, making contributions to the state's literary, musical, and academic life while
16 supporting cultural preservation and education efforts; and

17 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Jewish Museum in Anchorage, a subsidiary of the Alaska
18 Jewish Campus, provides a home for Jewish history, art, and culture in the state and enriches
19 the cultural wealth of the broader state community through collecting and preserving original
20 documents, photographs, visual art, books, and artifacts that tell the story of the Jewish
21 experience in the state, as well as the heroic humanitarian rescue of Jewish refugees from
22 Yemen by Alaska Airlines' pilots and flight attendants who took enormous risks to rescue
23 Jewish people from hostile territory and bring the refugees safely to the fledgling Jewish
24 homeland of Israel; and

25 **WHEREAS** celebrating Jewish Heritage Month in October 2025 gives all residents of
26 the state a chance to come together, learn from one another, and honor the many ways Jewish
27 individuals and families have helped shape the story of the state;

28 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims the month of
29 October 2025 as Jewish Heritage Month; and be it

30 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages schools,
31 cultural institutions, local governments, and all residents of the state to observe October 2025

- 1 as Jewish Heritage Month with appropriate ceremonies and educational activities, including
- 2 visiting the Alaska Jewish Museum, and through public recognition of the contributions of
- 3 past and present Jewish residents of the state.