



Jewish Community  
Relations Council  
**MILWAUKEE**  
JEWISH FEDERATION

## Preserving Our Democratic Institutions

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Jews should not shy from the struggle to safeguard our democratic institutions. In *Pirkei Avot* 2:4, Rabbi Hillel admonishes, “do not separate yourself from the community.” Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel wrote “The opposite of good is not evil; the opposite of good is indifference. In a free society, some are guilty, but all are responsible.”

The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation adopts the following consensus position on the importance of Preserving Our Democratic Institutions:

The JCRC respects and is committed to preserving our constitutional democracy, including the following aspects of the system: separation of church and state, upholding 3 coequal branches of government and the checks and balances upon the power of each branch laid out under the Constitution, individual rights such as freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of assembly, due process and equal justice and protection under the rule of law, and the ability of all citizens to vote in free and fair elections without unjustified restrictions, including the ability of the States to control the manner of elections.

The United States government is a constitutional democracy that encompasses a system of separation of powers, checks and balances, and a division of power between the federal government and the states via the 10th Amendment. The Constitution, including the Amendments, is the cornerstone of our democracy. It was created by the people for the people and is the supreme law of the land.

History has proven that strong and stable democracies are the safest home for Jews and other vulnerable communities. JCRC believes in a just, democratic and pluralistic society. The Torah calls on us to pursue justice, to care for the stranger, the widow, and the orphan, and to sustain our world. Preservation of the institutions of our constitutional democracy is essential to maintain an inclusive society where Jews and all people are safe and free to thrive. When critical democratic institutions are threatened, antisemitism invariably increases and Jews – and all communities – are made less safe.