

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING

ACR 195 (Gabriel, et al.)

As Introduced May 4, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Proclaims the month of May 2026 as Jewish American Heritage Month in California and commends the Jewish American community for its profound contributions to the state's growth, innovation, and diversity; and, encourages all Californians to celebrate Jewish American Heritage Month by deepening their understanding of Jewish history and culture, participating in appropriate programs and ceremonies, and standing united against antisemitism.

Major Provisions

- 1) May is nationally recognized as Jewish American Heritage Month, first proclaimed in 2006, celebrating more than 350 years of Jewish contributions to the United States and underscoring our nation's commitment to religious liberty.
- 2) Jewish Americans have played a vital role in the founding and continued development of the United States, contributing to the nation's cultural, economic, scientific, and civic advancement across numerous fields, including the arts, entertainment, business, labor, law, medicine, science, and technology, helping to shape the cultural and economic fabric of the nation.
- 3) Jewish Americans have shaped California since the Gold Rush era—holding the first High Holy Day services in San Francisco in 1849 and organizing congregations, charities, and schools statewide by the 1860s.
- 4) Jewish Californians have built thriving agricultural enterprises and retail institutions, helped establish the first department stores and nonprofit organizations in Los Angeles, and pioneered the motion picture industry that defined Hollywood, led by figures such as Louis B. Mayer and Jack Warner.
- 5) Jewish Americans have played a significant role in the labor movement in California, advocating for fair wages, safe working conditions, and workers' rights, including leadership in the garment, retail, and entertainment industries in Los Angeles and across the state.
- 6) Jewish innovators and entrepreneurs have contributed to California's leadership in science and technology, including transformative advancements in Silicon Valley and strengthening the state's role as a global hub of innovation.
- 7) Today, approximately 1,200,000 Jews live in California—the nation's second-largest Jewish population—including growing numbers of multiracial, Asian American and Pacific Islander, and Latino Jews, sustaining a vibrant and diverse network of synagogues, schools, social service agencies, museums, and cultural centers.
- 8) Successive waves of Jewish immigrants—from Iran, the former Soviet Union, and from Middle Eastern and North African countries including Morocco, Iraq, Syria, and Yemen—have enriched California's cultural, economic, and civic life while preserving diverse traditions, languages, and customs.

- 9) Israeli Americans have contributed to California's dynamic economy and cultural life through entrepreneurship, education, and community building, further strengthening the state's global connections.
- 10) Jewish American Heritage Month invites Californians of every background to explore Jewish history, culture, and resilience, honoring generations who helped forge "a more perfect union" and continue to advance the cultural, economic, and civic life of our state and nation.

COMMENTS

According to the Author

Jewish Californians have long been integral to the state's cultural, economic, and civic life, pioneering industries, advancing civil rights, and establishing support service networks. ACR 195 recognizes that legacy and calls on all Californians to celebrate Jewish American Heritage Month.

Arguments in Support

None on file

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

No fiscal impact. This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

VOTES

ASM RULES: 9-0-1

YES: Pacheco, Lackey, Ahrens, Dixon, Garcia, Mark González, Irwin, Sanchez, Zbur

ABS, ABST OR NV: Michelle Rodriguez

UPDATED

VERSION: May 4, 2026

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FN: 0002538