

Date of Hearing: June 1, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
SCR 178 (Becker) – As Introduced May 11, 2026

SENATE VOTE: 38-0

SUBJECT: Jewish American Heritage Month.

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. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 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 1.2 million 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.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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