



2833 Smith Ave Ste 225
Baltimore, MD 21209

t 301.727.2700
f 410.602.1351
www.cjvalues.org
office@cjvalues.org

Rabbi Pesach Lerner
President

Rabbi Yoel Schonfeld
Vice-President

Rabbi Avrohom Gordimer
Chairman, Rabbinic Circle

Rabbi Dov Fischer
Western Regional VP

Rabbi Ze'ev Smason
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Israel Regional VP

Rabbi Jonathan Guttentag
International Liaison

Rabbi Yaakov Menken
Managing Director

April 25, 2021

Mr. Richard Anderson, Chairman
Republican Party of Virginia
115 E. Grace St.
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Chairman Anderson,

We write on behalf of the Coalition for Jewish Values, representing over 1500 traditional, observant (Orthodox) rabbis in matters of public policy. We wish to clarify what is known to all of us as Orthodox rabbis, as per the letter you received from four of our Virginia-based colleagues on April 5:

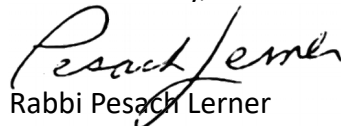
Contrary to other statements which have been made to members of the Committee and published on [The Bull Elephant](#), traditional Jewish observance categorically prohibits driving, use of telephones and electronic devices, and writing on the Jewish Sabbath. One who does otherwise may be described as attending an Orthodox synagogue, and, we hope, on the road towards full Jewish observance, but is not an Orthodox Jew as the term is commonly understood.

Furthermore, while there is surely a bond between all Jews as a people, Orthodox Jews must be considered as a separate constituency, at risk of being disenfranchised in this situation.

If the Committee wishes to ensure, per the op-ed, "that people who truly have a religious reason for not being able to vote on a Saturday can get an exemption and thus not be disenfranchised," then such a mechanism must be provided. Absentee balloting on or before Friday seems to be the most reasonable way to permit Orthodox Jewish participation without major expense or inconvenience to any individual or the party.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours Sincerely,


Rabbi Pesach Lerner
President


Rabbi Yaakov Menken
Managing Director