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## Oregon Senate Fact-Finding Mission Application & Approval Form

This application will be used to review and officially approve fact-finding missions allowed under ORS 244.020(7)(b)(H)(i) and required to be reported under ORS 244.060(6) if the expense per member is estimated to exceed \$50. This application must be submitted to the Secretary of the Senate **no later than 14 days** before the start of the fact-finding mission unless, as determined by the secretary, good cause exists for submitting the application after the deadline. **To promote transparency, all approved applications and accompanying materials will be posted on the Secretary of the Senate's website.**

Description of mission: National Conference of State Legislatures study tour of Israel

Issue(s) or legislation related to mission: Israeli legislators, foreign relations

Location of mission: Tel Aviv, Israel

Date(s) of mission: Thursday, April 26th, 2018 - Thursday, May 3rd, 2018

Person/entity paying expenses: American Israeli Friendship League and Jewish Federation of Greater Portland

Address of person/entity paying expenses: AIFL: 1430 Broadway, Suite 1804  
New York, NY 10018

Invited members (select one): JFGP: 660 SW Capitol Hwy, Portland OR 97219

All senators     The following senators: Senator Rob Wagner

All senators on the Committee(s)/Task Force(s) on: \_\_\_\_\_

Staff invited:     Yes     No      Relatives/household members invited:     Yes     No

Activities will be limited to a factual investigation or other educational purposes:  I agree.

The mission is not being conducted for campaign or partisan political purposes:  I agree.

**Please include the following required attachments with this application:**

1. Written opinion from the Oregon Government Ethics Commission concluding that the event is a permitted fact-finding mission under ORS 244.020(7)(b)(H)(i) and the rules of the commission.
2. Written itinerary or agenda for all scheduled meetings, events, presenters, meals, travel, lodging, or other activities planned during the mission.

**Within thirty (30) days after completion of the mission**, please submit the following required documents to the Secretary of the Senate, which will be posted on the secretary's website:

1. An attendance sheet listing all senators, staff, relatives, household members, lobbyists, and all others who participated in the mission.
2. The aggregate value of food, travel, and lodging expenses provided to each senator, staff member, relative, and household member of the senator. The aggregate value of expenses for each person shall be determined in the same manner as required by the Oregon Government Ethics Commission for disclosure on a Statement of Economic Interest under ORS 244.060(6).
3. Written confirmation that the mission was conducted substantially according to the itinerary or agenda submitted with the application and, if the mission varied materially from the submitted itinerary or agenda, a written account describing the material variations (i.e., any additional meetings, events, presenters, meals, travel, lodging).

Failure to submit this information within thirty (30) days after completion of the mission will result in an automatic denial of all future applications submitted by the applicant signing below and the person or entity listed above as paying expenses.

**By signing below, I hereby declare that all information submitted at any time by me, or on my behalf, to the Oregon Senate in connection with this application and fact-finding mission is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.**

Signature of applicant:  Date: 4/4/2018

Name of applicant (print): Rob Wagner, State Senator, SP 19  
Address: Capitol office: 900 Court St NE, Salem OR 97301; Home: 13322 Leslie Ct. (S-213) Lake Oswego OR 97034  
Telephone number: Capitol phone: (503) 986-1719; personal cell: (503) 705-4158  
E-mail address: sen.robwagner@oregonlegislature.gov; rob@robwagnerfororegon.com

All information above is required for the application to be considered.

**For Official Use Only**

Based on the written conclusion of the Oregon Government Ethics Commission and the information submitted by the applicant, under ORS 244.020(7)(b)(H)(i) this fact-finding mission is hereby:

Officially Sanctioned       Denied

  
Secretary of the Senate

April 6, 2018  
Date



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Government Ethics Commission

3218 Pringle Rd SE, Ste 220

Salem, OR 97302-1544

Telephone: 503-378-5105

Fax: 503-373-1456

E-mail: [ogec.mail@oregon.gov](mailto:ogec.mail@oregon.gov)

Website: [www.oregon.gov/ogec](http://www.oregon.gov/ogec)

April 05, 2018

Oregon State Capitol  
Senator Rob Wagner  
900 Court Street NE, S-213  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Advice 18-0941

Dear Sen. Wagner:

This letter of advice is provided in response to your request received on April 04, 2018, which inquired as to the application of Oregon Government Ethics law with regard to accepting overseas travel and related expenses paid for by 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations. The analysis that follows is offered under the authority provided in ORS 244.284 as guidance on how the current provisions of Oregon Government Ethics law applies to the specific circumstances presented.

According to the information provided in your original request, the American Israel Friendship League (AIFL) is coordinating with the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) to send a delegation of US state legislators to visit Israel from April 26 – May 3, 2018. The purpose is to participate in a study tour, which will provide a unique opportunity for the US state legislators to experience the shared modern democratic values that define both nations and to explore the realities of social, economic, and political issues. The delegation will meet with leaders of Israel's national legislature, visit historic sites, discuss common areas of interest, meet with leaders of various industries, and participate in briefings with high-level national and municipal officials. Topics to be discussed may include: cybersecurity, regional politics, renewable energy development, and shared economic issues.

AIFL will be paying the delegates' international airfare from Newark to Tel Aviv, as well as costs associated with in-country transportation, hotel accommodations, most meals, interpretation, and insurance. Each delegate is generally responsible for his/her own domestic airfare to and from Newark, as well as an NCSL processing fee of \$350. However, the Jewish Federation of Greater Portland (JFGP) is offering to cover your domestic airfare up to \$300 in value, so if permissible, you will only be required to personally pay the \$350 NCSL processing fee along with any uncovered overage costs associated with the trip. You will be attending solo, with no other staff or family accompanying.



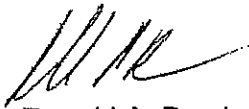
In light of the limitations that Oregon Government Ethics law places on public officials with regard to accepting financial benefits, you are requesting guidance as to whether you can accept AIFL's and JFGP's offers to cover the trip-related costs discussed above.

Generally speaking, ORS 244.025 limits public officials to accepting no more than \$50 worth of gift(s), per year, from any single source that might reasonably have an economic interest in the recipient's decision-making. However, there are a number of exceptions to this general rule (see ORS 244.020(7)(b)), one of which appears to apply in this particular kind of circumstance. ORS 244.020(7)(b)(F) permits a public official to accept—without regard to the limits under Oregon Government Ethics law—“[r]easonable expenses paid by...a not-for-profit corporation that is tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, for attendance at a convention, fact-finding mission or trip, conference or other meeting if the public official is...represent[ing] state government....” OAR 199-005-0001 clarifies a “fact-finding mission or trip’ is any activity related to a cultural...purpose...such as...sharing best practices, or developing intergovernmental relationships directly related to the public official’s duties[,]” as long as the payor is directly “associated with the event or location being visited.” Likewise, OAR 199-005-0001 clarifies that a public official is “representing government” when he/she attends an event on behalf of his/her government entity.

In short, the ORS 244.020(7)(b)(F) exception appears to apply: (1) both sponsoring organizations (AIFL and JFGP) are registered 501(c)(3) organizations; (2) the trip is “fact-finding”, because it serves a cultural relationship building purpose related to your official position, and the paying organizations have a direct nexus with Israel; and (3) you were invited to attend as a US state legislator to represent your state and country during the trip.

If you have any additional questions regarding the application of Oregon Government Ethics law, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Ronald A. Bersin  
Executive Director

RAB/hw

\*\*\*\*\*DISCLAIMER\*\*\*\*\*

This advice is provided under the authority given in ORS 244.284(1) and offers guidance on how Oregon Government Ethics law may apply to the facts described in your request. This opinion is based on my understanding and analysis of the specific circumstances you described and should not be applied to circumstances that differ from those discussed herein.



## NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*

April 2, 2018

The Honorable Rob Wagner  
State Senator  
13322 Leslie Court  
Lake Oswego, OR 97034

**Deb Peters**  
*Senator – District 9  
South Dakota  
President, NCSL*

**Chuck Truesdell**  
*Fiscal Analyst  
Office of Budget Review  
Legislative Research Commission  
Kentucky  
Staff Chair, NCSL*

**William T. Pound**  
*Executive Director*

Dear Senator Wagner:

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) it is my pleasure to invite you to participate in a study tour to Israel. The American Israel Friendship League (AIFL) has asked NCSL to assemble a delegation to visit Israel from April 26-May 3<sup>rd</sup>. This legislative study tour will provide a unique opportunity for U.S. state legislators to gain a greater understanding of another country's culture and customs, as well as a chance to witness firsthand Israel's position in the Middle East and the world.

The AIFL's goal is to enable delegates to experience the shared modern democratic values that define both nations and to explore the realities of the country, covering social, economic and political issues. During this exciting week, the delegation will meet with leaders of the Knesset (national legislature), visit historic sites, and discuss with your Israeli counterparts common areas of interest. You will meet with leaders of various industries and participate in briefings with high-level national and municipal officials. 2018 marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel, with many special events and celebrations.

Topics to be discussed may include, but are not limited to: cybersecurity; security concerns; regional politics; renewable energy development; and shared economic issues. Israel is a vital regional ally for the United States, situated at the crossroads of East and West. Israel is comprised of varied religious, political, and historical contrasts and offers many insights on public and foreign policy for U.S. state legislators to explore.

The AIFL will be responsible for international airfare (economy class) on a direct flight from Newark to Tel Aviv. The preferred flight to Israel is via El Al departing Newark Liberty on Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00pm arriving at Ben Gurion Airport, Israel at 2:25 pm on Friday April 27<sup>th</sup> and returning to the US via El Al on May 3<sup>rd</sup> arriving at Newark Liberty at approximately 6:00am.

AIFL will cover the cost of all in-country transportation, hotel accommodations, most meals, interpretation, and insurance. Each member of the delegation is responsible for his or her domestic airfare to and from JFK International Airport and a processing fee of \$350. Should you wish to bring a spouse on the trip, you will be responsible for the cost of airfare plus an additional cost of \$1,578, which will cover the in-country costs. Past participants have greatly enjoyed the experience.

**Denver**  
7700 East First Place  
Denver, Colorado 80230-7143  
Phone 303.364.7700 Fax 303.364.7800

**Washington**  
444 North Capitol Street, N.W. Suite 515  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
Phone 202.624.5400 Fax 202.737.1069

Website [www.ncsl.org](http://www.ncsl.org)  
Email [info@ncsl.org](mailto:info@ncsl.org)

April 2, 2018

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Please respond by March 30th to Kathy Brennan Wiggins by email at [kathy.wiggins@ncsl.org](mailto:kathy.wiggins@ncsl.org). If you are interested in participating, please fill out the attached personal data form and return it to Ishanee Chanda at [Ishanee.Chanda@ncsl.org](mailto:Ishanee.Chanda@ncsl.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ishanee Chanda', written in a cursive style.

State Senator, South Dakota  
President, National Conference of State Legislatures



in cooperation with



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## 2018 Assembly Speakers and State Legislators Delegation

April 27<sup>th</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup>

### Draft Program

#### Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018

11.50 a.m.      **Arrival in Israel**, El Al Airlines, LY 002

Welcome: Tali Koren, Delegations Coordinator, AIFL Israel Office  
Check in David Citadel Hotel

Welcome the Shabbat at the Western Wall

7.00 p.m.      Shabbat dinner hosted by Rabbi Ian and Rachel Pear (*daughter of Hon. Bob Abrams, former Attorney General of New York and AIFL Board Member*) and their children,  
*Gavriella, Michaella, Darya, Eliyahu and Benjamin*)

**Overnight: David Citadel, Hotel, Jerusalem Address: - King David 7, Jerusalem 9410119 Israel**

#### Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

8.00 a.m.      Leave for Masada and the Dead Sea

Tour of Masada (*King Herod's palace-fortress and the last refuge of Jewish rebels against Rome a century later*)

Lunch

Float in the Dead Sea

5.00 p.m.      Rest and refresh at the hotel

7.30 p.m.      Dinner with Dr. Eran Lerman, Senior Research Associate, BESA Center

And Faculty Member, Shalem College

**Overnight: David Citadel Hotel, Jerusalem**  
**Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

- 9:00 a.m. Visit Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial
- 12.00 p.m. Visit Jerusalem Venture Partners including start ups
- 2.00 p.m. Visit the Holy sites in the Old City: Via Dolorosa, The Church of the Holy Sepulcher,  
The Golgotha
- 4.30 p.m. Visit OrCam – (*OrCam is an Israeli-based company producing wearable artificial intelligence space. OrCam develops and manufactures assistive technology devices for individuals who are visually impaired, partially sighted, blind, print disabilities, or have other disabilities*)
- 6.00 p.m. Meeting with Dr. Halil Shikaki, Palestinian Pollster
- 7.30 p.m. Dinner with Prof. Shlomo Avineri, Political Science, Hebrew University

**Overnight: David Citadel Hotel Jerusalem**

**Monday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

- 9.00 a.m. Meeting on Cyber Security
- 10.30 a.m. Briefings at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  - Middle East Affairs
  - Efforts to Single Out Israel
  - Israel U.S. Relations
- 1.30 p.m. Lunch with Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Turo Restaurant
- 3.00 p.m. Meetings at the Knesset, Israeli Parliament  
Speaker of the Knesset, Minister Avi Dichter, MK Michael Oren, *former Israeli Ambassador to the US*
- 5.30 p.m. Visit to Teva Pharmaceuticals  
  
Dinner with Mayor of Efrat, Oded Ravivi

**Overnight: David Citadel Hotel Jerusalem Address: HaYarkon Street 99, Tel Aviv-Yafo 63432 Israel**

**Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018**

- 08.00 a.m. Departure to the north of the country
- 10.00 a.m. Visit Holy Sites on the Sea of Galilee and lunch



2.30 p.m. Visit Ziv Hospital in Safed and meet with Syrian patients

6.30 p.m. Dinner and visit Daliat El Carmel, Druze Village

9.00 p.m. Arrival in Tel Aviv

Overnight: Dan Hotel Tel Aviv

### **Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018**

8.30 a.m. Breakfast with Mehereta Baruch Ron, Deputy Mayor of Tel Aviv (Ethiopian Origin)

10.00a.m. Visit Bialik Rogozin School (kids of refugees from 40 countries)

11.30a.m. Visit Check Point - (*Check Point Software Technologies Ltd. is an Israeli multinational provider of software and combined hardware and software products for IT security, including network security, endpoint security, mobile security, data security and security management.*)

1.00 p.m. Lunch with Amb. Dan Gillerman, AIFL Chairman in Israel

3.00 p.m. Meeting with Dr. Dan Gold, the Man behind the iron Dome

5.00 p.m. Meeting with IsraAID or IDF Spokesman

7.30 p.m. Farewell Dinner hosted by Amb. David Roet, Director North America Ministry of Foreign Affairs

#### **NB:**

1. Meetings were not coordinated yet, but will be coordinated upon receiving list of participants
2. We will try our utmost to secure a meeting with the President of the State of Israel.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*

444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 515  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
Tel: 202-624-3573 Fax: 202-559-3339

**M E M O R A N D U M**

TO: Israel Study Tour Participants

FROM: Kathy Brennan Wiggins, Director, International Program  
Ishanee Chanda, Staff Assistant, International Program

DATE: March 22, 2018

SUBJECT: Study Tour to the State of Israel

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Thank you for your continued interest in the 2018 AIFL-NCSL study tour to Israel. As you begin your preparations for the study tour to Israel, April 26-May 3, we would like to provide you with some additional information on the trip.

**Plane Tickets**

If you have not yet sent your personal data form and a scan of your passport facepage to [ishanee.chanda@ncsl.org](mailto:ishanee.chanda@ncsl.org), **please do so by Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>**. As outlined previously, the original flight from JFK to Tel Aviv on El Al has been canceled. AIFL has instead secured a flight from Newark Liberty which leaves at 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup> and lands in Tel Aviv at 2:25 p.m. on Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. The return flight follows approximately the same schedule where it departs Tel Aviv close to 12:00 a.m. on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, and lands at Newark Liberty at 6:00 a.m. on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Therefore, you are responsible for your domestic airfare to and from Newark Liberty Airport rather than JFK International Airport, as well as the processing fee of \$350. You may work directly with AIFL's travel agent Dubi Leshem (212-284-6742) or at [dubil@giltravel.com](mailto:dubil@giltravel.com) to arrange your international flight. He can also work with you to arrange your domestic flight if you wish.

**Accompanying Spouse**

Should you wish to bring a spouse on the trip, you will be responsible for the cost of airfare plus an additional cost of \$1,578, which will cover the in-country costs, as well as your processing fee of \$350. **All processing and spouse fees must be paid in advance. Please send your fees to the address below:**

Cassia Romano-Anthony  
Director of Programs  
America-Israel Friendship League  
1430 Broadway, Suite 1804, New York, NY 10018  
Direct: [646-892-9147](tel:646-892-9147) [Email:canthony@aifl.org](mailto:canthony@aifl.org)

If you are sending a check, please make it out to “America-Israel Friendship League.”

### **Bios**

Please send Ishanee your preferred half-page narrative bio and picture by **Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

### **Arrival in Israel and Agenda**

All participants will be met at the gate in the Jerusalem airport by a Royal Service Guard. This guard will escort you through the airport, including through customs and baggage claim. They will stay with you until you arrive at your hotel.

NCSL and AIFL will provide you with information on the exact program as soon as it becomes available. Attached to this memo is a draft program. Please keep in mind that the agenda may not be finalized until you arrive in Israel. You will be accompanied by an AIFL staffer at all times while in Israel. They will be available to answer any questions you have onsite. You will also be accompanied by NCSL staffer Ethan Wilson who will be your point of contact from our organization.

### **Conference Call**

There will be a briefing call with AIFL on **Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00 A.M. EST**. This will be a briefing on relations between Israel and the U.S, and will allow you to ask our AIFL contacts any questions you may have about the study tour. Please make sure you come fully prepared. We will also be sending you a briefing book shortly.

### **Passport/Visa**

Your passport must be valid through November 2018, and have at least two blank pages. You will not need to obtain a visa to enter Israel; however, you will need to bring your passport on the trip. Please keep it on you at all times while traveling and while in-country.

### **Insurance**

NCSL will provide emergency medical insurance through Berkley Accident and Health while you are on your trip. In order to activate this insurance, **you must fill out the attached emergency contact form and return it to Ishanee**. More information about the insurance is attached to this email. Please print out the card and bring it with you to Israel.

### **Medication and Immunizations**

The U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends visitors check with their doctor regarding shots or medication for immunizations before traveling to Israel. For detailed information on diseases and the usual precautions please check the CDC website at <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/israel.aspx>. The CDC recommends you visit your doctor 4-6 weeks before you leave. Please carry all medication in original containers in your carry on bag.

### **Dietary or Mobility Restrictions**

If you have any dietary or mobility restrictions, please notify Ishanee as soon as possible so that we may bring this to the attention of our hosts in order to plan accordingly.

### **Gifts**

It is customary to bring gifts to present to your hosts and those you meet with on these types of study tours. **It would be useful for each person to have at least two gifts that are representative of U.S. culture.** Tokens of appreciation that come from your state will be particularly well received. Past gifts have included pewter plates, crystal paperweights, state pens, picture books, non-perishable food products, and manufactured items indigenous to particular states. These gifts should be of high quality and reflect the character of your state. It is also nice to bring small tokens from your state (lapel pins, pencils, etc.).

In some states, the Economic Development Agency, or an equivalent agency that conducts trade missions, may have appropriate gifts. It also can be helpful to ask these agencies for a few facts/figures about your state's relationships with Israel, in the case you are called on to present a gift or respond to questions. NCSL will also bring gifts to present on behalf of the group for major meetings.

### **Clothing and Baggage**

While in Israel, you will be moving around the country so please pack light. It has been recommended that gentlemen pack one suit and tie, a sports coat, a pair of slacks, and a pair of jeans or khakis. Women should plan for a similar wardrobe. Most of the time you spend in country will require casual attire. Pack comfortable shoes for your time there. Keep in mind that Israel has a large conservative population (both Jewish and Muslim) and it is respectful to be modest in your attire. You will also be visiting a home on Friday night for a Shabbat dinner. Business attire will be appropriate for Monday and Wednesday, as seen on the attached agenda.

As you pack, please keep in mind airline weight and baggage restrictions. It is recommended that you pack any medications, toiletries, and a set of clothes in your carry-on bag in the event that you experience any difficulties.

### **Weather**

The temperatures in Israel during this time of year are very warm, in the high nineties during the day with cool overnight lows.

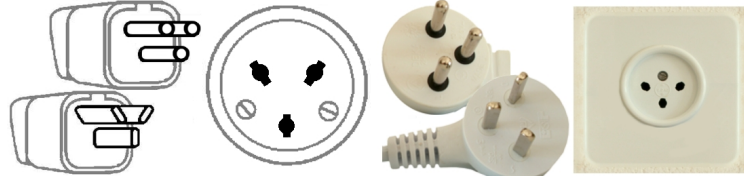
### **Electricity**

The standard electrical voltage in Israel is 230 v AC, 50HZ. The electrical outlets used are type H and type C. Type H is uniquely Israeli three-pronged standard but most outlets are modern European type C plugs.

### **Type C:**



**Type H:**



**Business Cards**

Please make sure to bring at least 50 business cards with you. You will be in many settings where business cards are exchanged.

**Money & Currency**

In Israel, the currency is the New Shekel or *sheqel* for short. The exchange rate as of March 22 is:

$$\text{\$1 U.S.} = \text{NIS 3.48}$$

If you want to check the exchange rate before you leave, you may consult any major newspaper, or [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com) for up-to-date conversion figures.

Travelers may exchange foreign currency at any independent exchange bureau or large bank. Most places charge a four-percent commission to exchange cash. ATMs are readily available in cities and are an easy way to access funds and do not charge a commission.

Major credit cards (Master Card, Visa, and American Express) are accepted at large establishments, specifically tourist destinations and hotels, however, it is not recommended to rely on credit cards if you intend to do any shopping. Some tourist destinations accept U.S. dollars. If you plan to use your ATM card or any credit card, please notify your bank or credit card company that you will be out of the country before you travel so that they do not put any holds on your accounts while you are travelling.

**Shopping**

AIFL will plan opportunities for you to shop. Israel is known for its wine, kosher products, t-shirts, and diamonds. It is one of the best countries for purchasing Judaic and Christian pilgrim souvenirs. While it is legal to purchase antiquities from the small number of government-licensed dealers, exporting them from Israel is illegal except with written authorization from the Israel Antiquities Authority.

Bargaining over the price of goods is a regular practice, so be prepared. Prices in tourist destinations can routinely be haggled to as low as 25% of the asking price. It's easier to make a deal if you buy multiple items from the same vendor.

### **Tipping**

Tipping is usually expected at restaurants. It is standard to give 10-12%. Service charges are generally not included in bills, however many restaurants do charge a security fee. Tipping local guides is expected. Tipping of taxi drivers is not common; in fact, most fares can be negotiated unless the driver uses their meter.

### **Phone Calls**

Many cell phone companies offer international service, so if you would like to take your cell phone with you, please contact your wireless provider. Some U.S. cell phones will function in "roam" mode in Israel. Please check with your provider for details. If you will be bringing your cell phone, **please send Ishanee the number**. Another option is to purchase international calling cards or international cell phones. You can purchase these on the internet. Of course, you will be able to call internationally from your hotels, but you may want to ask the hotel the price before deciding to do so.

### **Internet and Hotels**

Internet access will be readily available at all of the hotels at which you will be staying. The hotels will also offer business centers if you do not wish to bring your own laptop. Internet cafes are readily available as are cafes with Wi-Fi access. Information on the exact hotels will be shared as soon as it becomes available.

### **Time Zone**

The time zone in Israel is Israeli Standard Time. It is seven hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time. If you would like to find the time difference for you, please use this link: [www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/](http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/).

### **Safety Tips**

See [travel advisory](#) put out by the State Department. There is some violence between Israeli Forces and Palestinian militants in certain areas but not in areas where you will travel. Most city crime rates are comparatively low to that which occurs in the U.S. The U.S. Embassy advises U.S. visitors to carry their passports with them and out of reach of pickpockets at all times. If you go shopping or sightseeing on your own, you may wish to bring a money-belt. Many travel shops offer the type that is worn underneath your clothing.

### **Drinking Water**

It is safe to drink the tap water in hotels in Israel; however you will also find mineral water to be readily available.

### **Informative Websites**

U.S. Embassy in Israel: <http://usembassy-israel.org.il>.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [kathy.wiggns@ncsl.org](mailto:kathy.wiggns@ncsl.org) or Ishanee at [ishanee.chanda@ncsl.org](mailto:ishanee.chanda@ncsl.org).