

The Town of Montague can join the Apartheid-Free Communities network, by voting Yes, to stand as a community with Palestinian people, immigrants, and everyone working for peace, justice & equality.

Together, Montague residents have united their community to take this renewed public pledge against all interlocking systems of racism and oppression, including antisemitism, Islamophobia, and xenophobia; working with others towards ending human rights abuses at home and in Palestine. With this resolution, Montague will join 5 other New England municipalities, and over 800 communities⁽¹⁾ that declare freedom from the crime of Apartheid: “inhumane acts committed for the purpose of establishing and maintaining domination by one racial group of persons over another racial group of persons and systematically oppressing them” ⁽²⁾.

On February 1st 2022 Amnesty International concluded that Israel has imposed an oppressive apartheid system of domination over the Palestinian people in Palestine and the Occupied Palestinian Territories,. Additionally the United Nations, and the International Association of Genocide Scholars have confirmed that what is happening in Gaza is a genocide.

Being Apartheid-Free is not just about Palestine. Passing this pledge is about our collective humanity and is a step to raise consciousness and build consensus that what is happening in Israel/Palestine is apartheid, it is wrong, and must end. It is our fiscal responsibility to fund our communities, rather than violating our own Leahy Law and International laws. In 2024, Montague residents paid an estimated \$648,863 to Israel's apartheid regime (the 2025 figure according to NotMyTaxDollars.org). Put in perspective, our money could instead fund 7 elementary school teachers' salaries for one year, or purchase one month's groceries for 1,365 families. Just as the world took a stand against South African apartheid to force the end of its oppressive and racist system, it is our moral imperative to stand with the Palestinian people to end Israel's apartheid.

Now is the time to raise our collective voice for democracy and freedom of speech, and against the rise of fascism. We stand together to call for, and CREATE municipal action, accountability, policies, and investments that support the needs of our community.

Our state and federal representatives need to hear that in Montague we prioritize our commitment to human rights locally and abroad. Taking the Apartheid-Free Community Pledge is a courageous act towards creating the community and world where we truly want to live, and where our children can thrive.

Thank you for voting Yes to Equality & Justice for All people and putting Montague on the right side of history –future generations will remember you.

(1)Apartheid-Free.org

(2) International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid