International Jewish Labor Bund

Chicagoland Onboard Help Document

(Updated August 2026)

Table of Contents

Section Name	Section Description
Chicagoland Principles	Fundamental beliefs and goals of this Chapter
Bundism Reading List	Recommended Bundist reading materials
IJLB Organizational Chart	How power is balanced within the IJLB
IJLB Chapters, Committees, & Caucuses	Current IJLB Chapters, Caucuses, & Committees
IJLB Chapter Membership & Delegates	How our members are currently organized
Chicagoland Local Structure	How the local Chicagoland Chapter is structured internally
IJLB Standing Committees	Descriptions for each of the IJLB Committees
IJLB Member Pathways	How a member can move through the IJLB
Chicagoland Local Member Pathways	How a local Chicagoland Member can move through the chapter (OCs & Committees)
3-10-3 Explainer (How to Form OCs & Chapters	How Organizing Committees and Chapters form, grow, and elect roles
Vision for the Bund	Future status of the IJLB
Chicagoland Chapter Charter	Foundational structure of the Local Chapter

Chicagoland Chapter Principles

1. As a Jewish organization, we base our understanding of Jewishness on grounded and sincere self-identification.

2. We strive to become an integral, yet autonomous, Jewish part of the broader struggles for labor rights, housing justice, environmentalism, feminism, LGBTQ+ equality, and the rights of ethnic, religious, and racial minorities — all united by a commitment to collective liberation.

3. We wish to popularize and increase access to Jewish culture in all its diversity, including Jewish diaspora languages.

4. We believe in Doikayt (Hereness). Jews in Chicago and around the world can engage in forms of self determination that are not inferior to Jewish statehood. The Bund strives to enable such self-determination by building local communal bodies, based on voluntary participation, and elected leadership open to Jews across the whole denominational spectrum with lineage through either parentage.

5. We refuse to believe that antisemitism is a timeless problem that Jews are eternally doomed to wherever we live. However, it can only be systematically solved through consistent united solidarity against all forms of prejudice.

6. We adopt an anti-Zionist approach to Israel-Palestine, prioritizing ending the occupation, oppression, segregation, and discrimination that has been ongoing since the foundation of the State of Israel. Given that great injustices and crimes are being done to the Palestinian people in the name of our safety, we feel called to include this in our organizing efforts in addition to our work focused on other parts of the world.

7. Recognizing the acceptance of all these principles as necessary to become a member of the Chicagoland Bund, we aim to reach out to the wider Jewish community in order to gain further support, as well as strive for constructive cooperation with other organizations on issues where doing so would be beneficial to our values as a whole.

Bundism Reading List

What is Bundism?

As part of the project to rebuild the Bund all over the world, we were brought together from a diverse range of political and organizing backgrounds.

As a first step, we saw fit to define some basic Principles of Unity and a Code of Conduct to serve as a Provisional Membership Agreement.

However, the task of articulating a detailed platform or manifesto is a significantly greater challenge, and one that must come as part of a broad internal democratic process that is currently underway.

We wish to encourage new analysis of what Bundist thought means in our times. We can draw on the legacy of the movement in undertaking constructive dialogue and critique.

We are working on giving Bundists various accessible ways of contributing to these discussions, including through Der Spekter, but please feel free to reach out to us in the meantime!

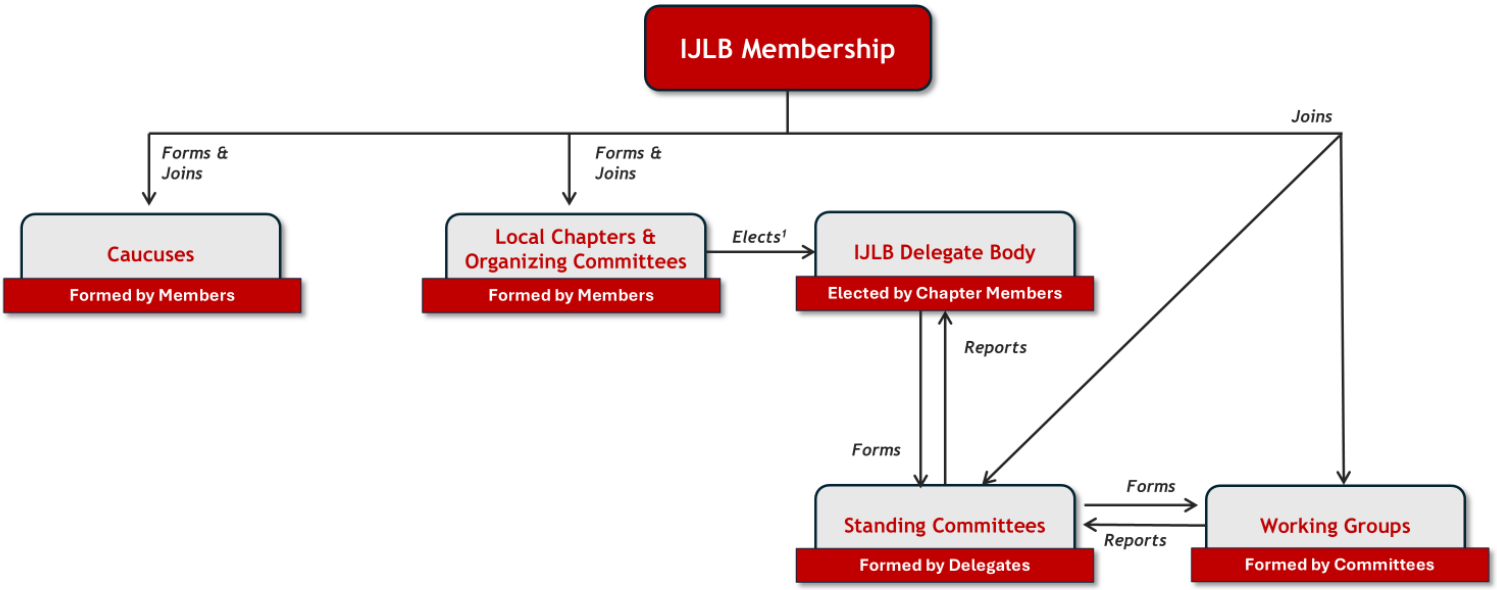
Below you can find a few efforts on analyzing Bundist thought in the current context, from a wide variety of different perspectives.

If you'd like to delve into the history of the movement, check out the Historical Resources section!

- *Activist ancestors: Reaching towards the Jewish Labour Bund's strategies for cultural organizing by Shelby Handler (2022)*
- *Bundism's Influence Today at YIVO (2019)*
- *Bundism Today: A Case for Jewish Autonomist Diasporist Socialism by Zach Mosze (2025)*
- *Dort wo wir leben, ist unser Land by Isabel Frey (2019)*
- *My American Bundism by Clare Kinberg (2017)*
- *My Bundism is not just a memory by Irena Klepfisz (2022)*
- *My Great-Grandfather the Bundist by Molly Crabapple (2018)*
- *National Internationalism? The Jewish Labor Bund between Nation and Class by Josh Meyers (2022)*
- *Solidarity Across Borders and Time: The Jewish Labor Bund by Joel Schechter (2023)*
- *The Soul of the Bund by Marvin Zuckerman (2022)*
- *The Ideals of the Jewish Labor Bund Have Outlived Nazi Genocide by David Rosenberg (2022)*
- *The Rise and Fall of the Jewish Labor Bund by Philip Mendes (2013)*
- *The rise and fall of the Jewish Labour Bund by Sai Englert (2012)*
- *Why Modern anti-Zionists Love the Bund by Rokhl Kafrissen (2019)*

IJLB Organizational Chart:

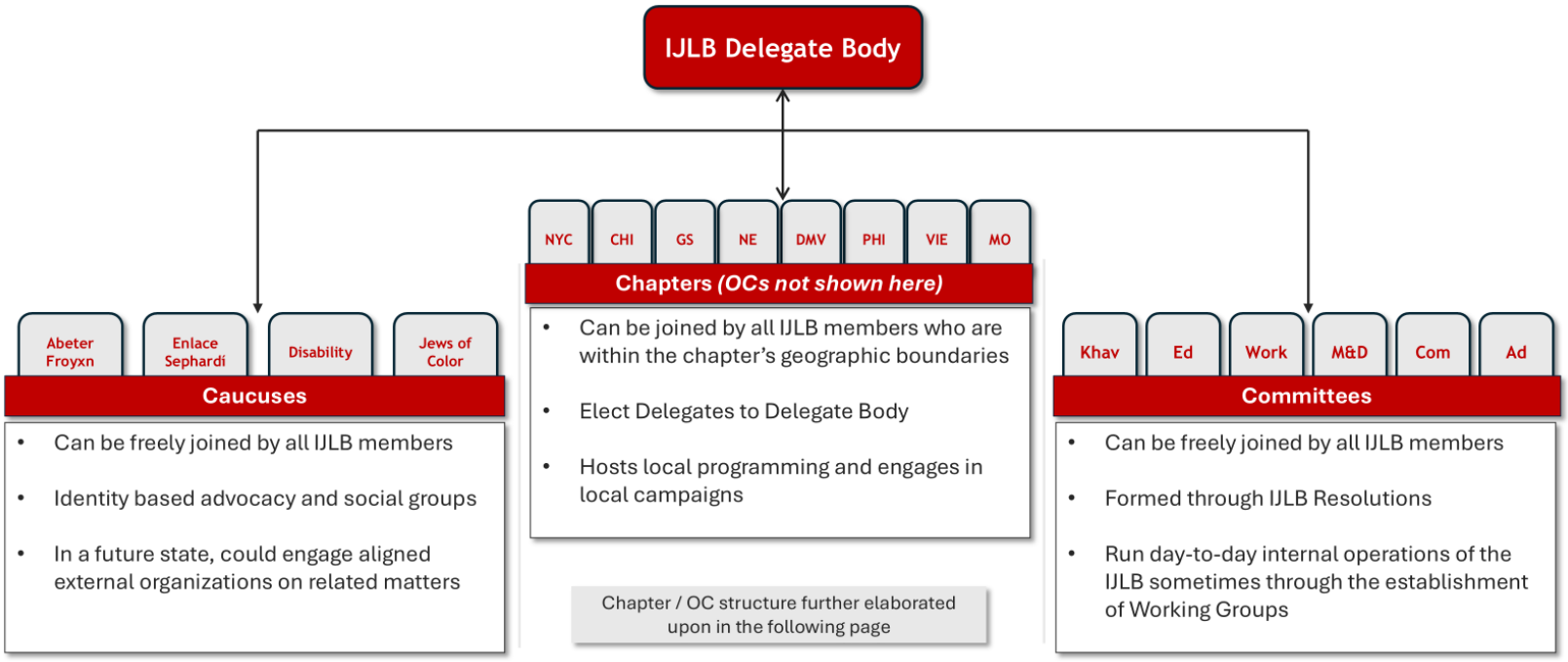
- The IJLB is organized into Caucuses, Chapters / OCs, the Delegate Body, Standing Committees, and Working Groups
- The chart below outlines how IJLB members can join, form, and elect the different sub-groups
- Future pages in this document also further outline the purpose of each sub-groups



1. Only Chapters and not Organizing Committees can vote with and elect delegates
Note: Map current as of Resolution #24 *(Last updated June 2026)*

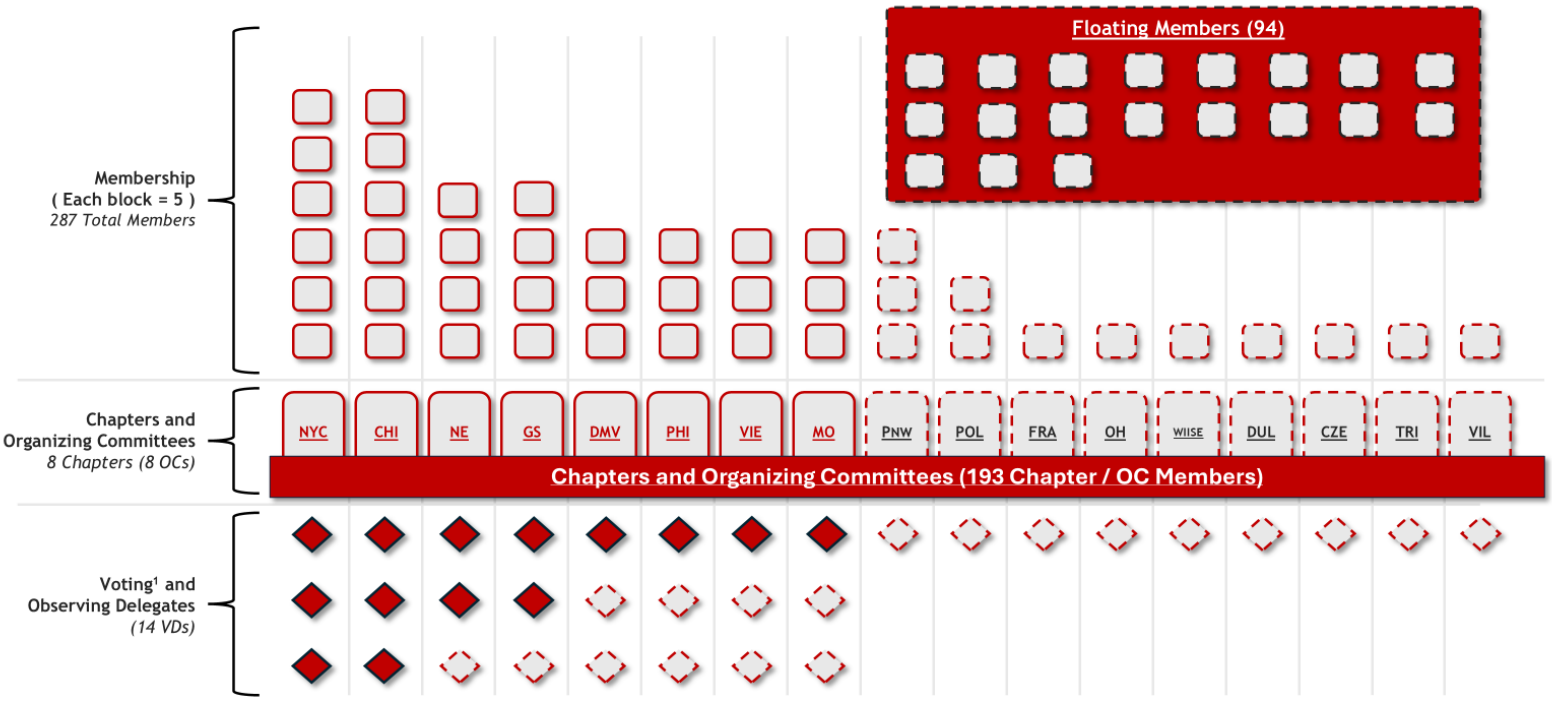
IJLB Chapters, Committees, & Caucuses:

- Caucuses: Abeter Froxyn, Enlace Sephardí, Disability, and Afro-Indigenous Asiatic
- Chapters: New York City, Chicagoland, Golden State, New England, DMV, Philadelphia, Vienna, and Montana
- Committees: Khavershaft, Education, Workers, Membership & Onboard, Communications, and Administration



IJLB Chapter Membership & Delegates:

- If possible, members are sorted into a local chapter
- Chapters are awarded delegates for international decisions based on membership count (10 = 1, 20 = 2, and 30 = 3 delegates)
- Future resolution will outline process by which to allow “floating members” representation in the delegate body



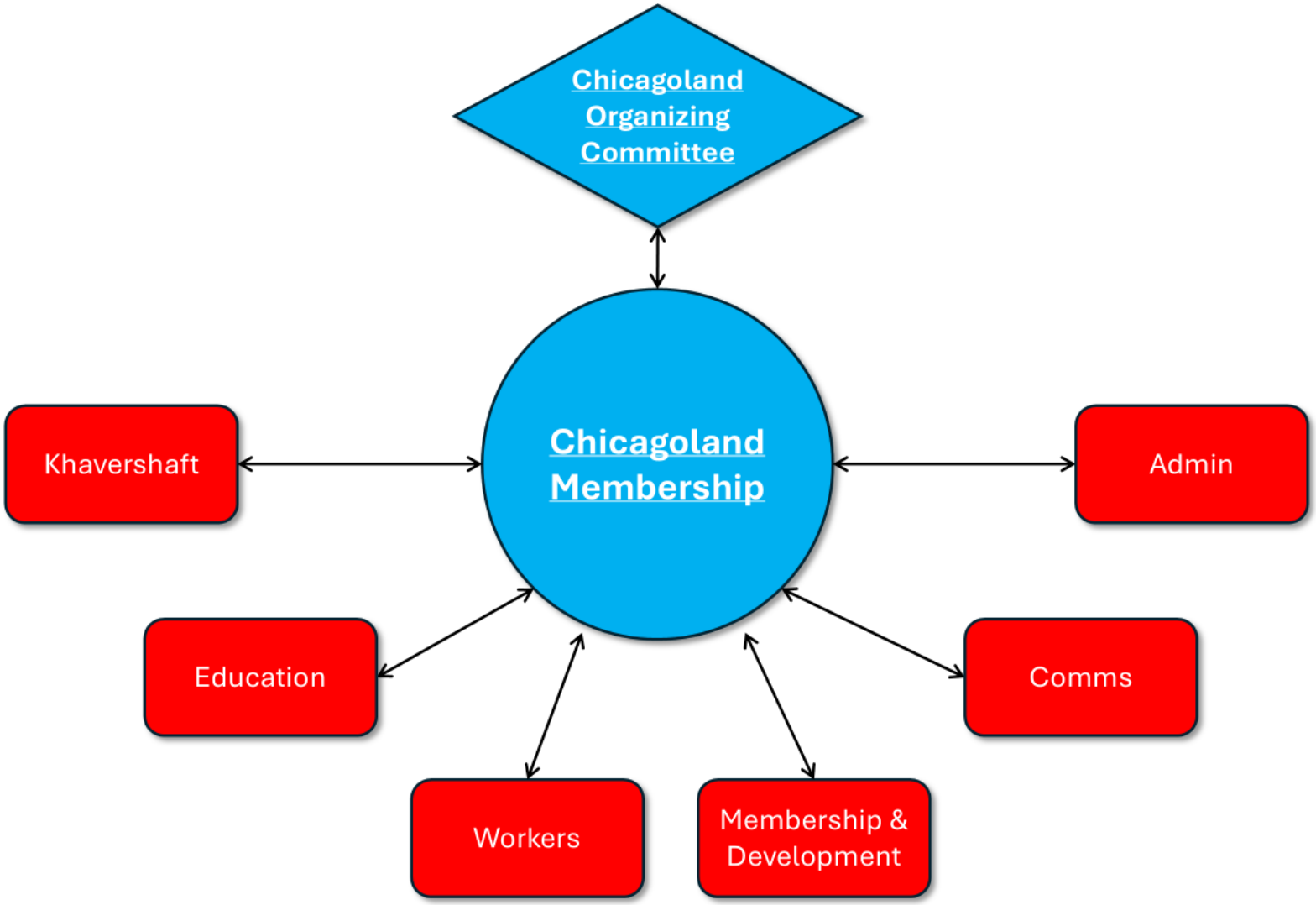
Note: Visual current as of Resolution #24 *(Last updated August 2026)*
1. Red diamonds refer to Voting Delegates vs Observing Delegates

Local Chicagoland Specific Structure outlined on next page

Chicagoland Local Structure:

Chicagoland Members can elect, join, and form the following:

- *Organizing Committee*: Consists of the Chapter's International Delegates and Local Event Conveners (Internal Processes)
- *Standing Committees*: Serve to progress the chapters chosen functions externally and within the Chicago community; current committees established are shown in the red boxes below



IJLB Standing Committee Descriptions

Membership & Dev Committee

Onboarding

- Maintain, develop, and update the provisional membership form
- Connect aspiring members to relevant local chapters for onboarding
- Provide onboarding for members without a relevant local chapter
- Connect aspiring and current members to potentially relevant caucuses and working groups to facilitate their integration to the org

Development

- Facilitate the creation of new organizing committees (OCs)
- Connect local Bundist chapters to brainstorm ideas for recruitment
- Assist local Bundist chapters to coordinate organizing campaigns

Current Working Groups

- N/A

Communications Committee

Internal Communications

- Manage the IJLB Announcements Signal
- Manage the internal mass emailer system
- Publish the Bund Bulleting

External Communications

- Manage the Intl. Instagram and other Intl. social media platforms
- Manage the IJLB's relationship with Bund-aligned media outlets
- Assist with the drafting of external communications for the Intl. organization
    - Reach out to internal and external stakeholders
    - Supervise any processes stipulated by resolutions

Current Working Groups

- Social Media, Graphic Design, Performing Arts, Bund Bulletin, Mission Statement

Administration Committee

Records Management

- Maintain & publish working docs at Intl. level
- Store and persevere docs at the Intl. & local levels
- Facilitate doc access
- Redact docs for privacy

Finances

- Maintain financial records
- Handle expenses and raise funds for Intl.

Election Management

- Organize and manage elections for Intl.
- Maintain the list of delegates to the IJLB

Internal Governance

- Develop, maintain, and publish procedures for the internal workings of the IJLB as well as internal guidelines
- Certify local chapters admission to the IJLB
- Identify emergent responsibility gaps and identify key stakeholders to rectify issues

Email

- Manage "admin@" inbox
- Manage doc submissions for IJLB Res. compliance

Current Working Groups

- Doc Mgt, Doc Recovery & Archiving, Internal Gov't, Email Mgt

Khavershaft Committee

Online Community Building

- Organize online events
- Welcome new members
- Maintain the website and ensure its accessibility

Online Moderation

- Moderate the Signal chats and maintain a directory of all the different chats
- Facilitate reconciliation after arguments
- Develop, publish, and enforce code of conduct
- Facilitate restitution after harms take place

Accessibility

- Improve the accessibility for differently abled members who may be hard-of-hearing, blind, or otherwise not able-bodied

Website Management

- Maintain the new website

Current Working Groups

- Website

Education Committee

History

- Teaching Bundist and Revolutionary history
- Putting this into practice

New Khaver Development

- Helping new members become politically conscious, radical, and critical Bundists

Fostering a Revolutionary & Multiplicit Jewish Culture

- Develop a common front for cultural flourishing, language rights, and universal education

Current Working Groups

- Yiddish
- History
- Performing Arts

Workers Committee

Building Worker Power

- Identify Jewish businesses that could be good targets for unionization efforts or for conversion into a cooperative
- Provide resources to Jewish workers seeking to unionize or convert their businesses into cooperatives

Relationship Building

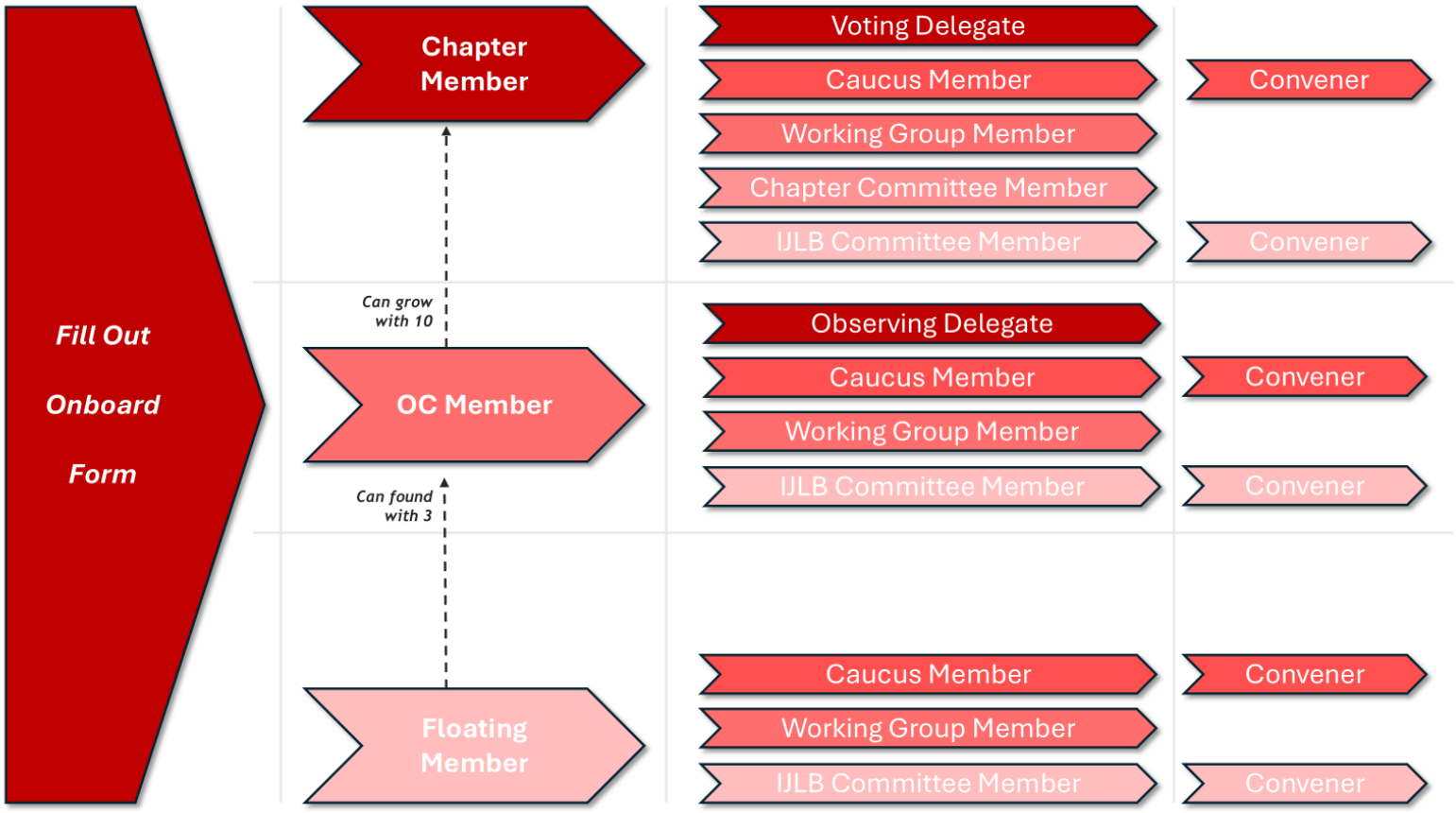
- Format points-of-contact with organized labor and the cooperative movement as a whole
- Catalog the work done by local chapters to assist union and cooperative organizing efforts

Current Working Groups

- N/A

IJLB Member Pathways:

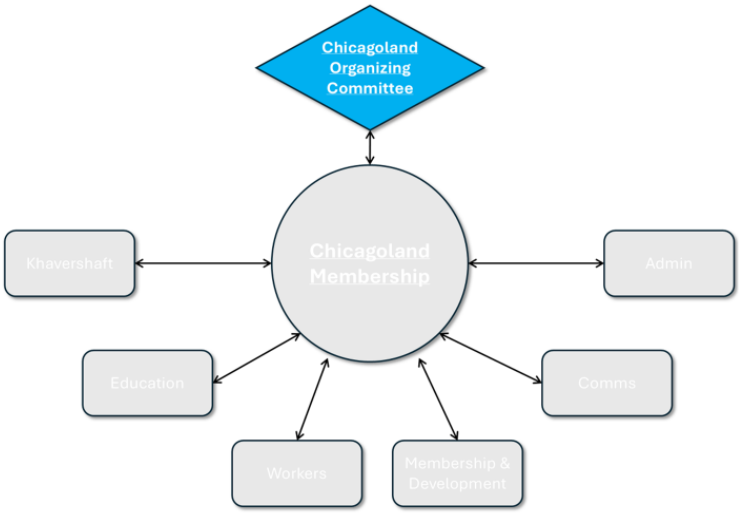
- Membership can be granted after the initial onboard form containing the Principles of Unity and Code of Conduct has been signed, and an onboard call / chapter specific vetting process has been conducted
- Members pathways can vary based on local organization's current international standing, however members can help progress their local into a full chapter and hence access all possible pathways



Note: Map current as of Resolution #24 *(Last updated June 2026)*

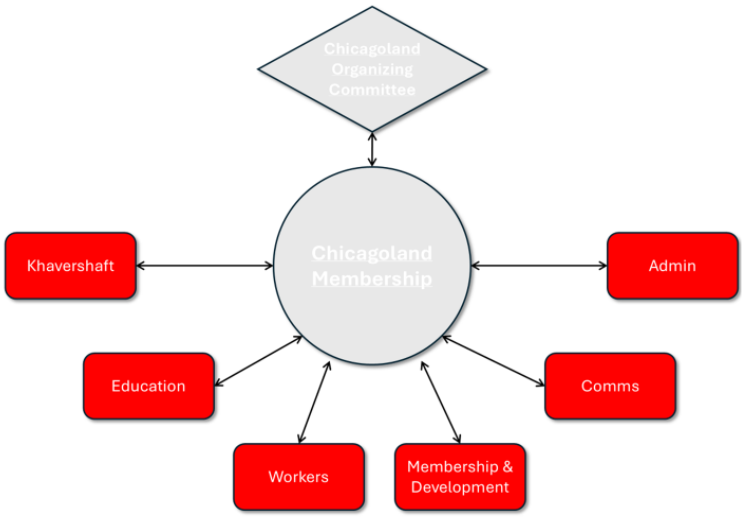
Local Chicagoland Standing Committees and Membership Pathways outlined on next page

Chicagoland Local Member Pathways



Current Organizing Committee (OC) Status

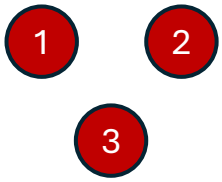
- **Process**
  (Next Election to be held by Feb 12th, 2027)
  - *While Membership is free to join any Committee at any time, Members must run for positions within the Chapter OC*
  - *Current Organizing Committee Members were elected to 3-month terms at the Chapter Founding Meeting*
- **International Delegates**
  (Current Delegates have been elected by Membership until 2/12/2027)
  - *Represent the Chapter at IJLB Delegate Body Meetings*
- **Local Conveners**
  (Current Conveners have been elected by Membership until 8/12/2026)
  - *Ensure the Chapter is meeting locally on regular basis*



Current Committee Descriptions

- **Khavershaft Committee**
  - Community building, local events, solidarity
- **Education Committee**
  - Content creation, program assistance, history, reading groups, Ladino, Yiddish
- **Workers Committee**
  - Building worker power, relationship building, May Day events, union relationship management
- **Membership & Onboard Committee**
  - Recruitment, Airtable management, development
- **Communications Committee**
  - Internal communications, external communications, social media, email correspondence
- **Admin Committee**
  - Records management, finances, election management, internal governance, system creation

3-10-3 Explainer (How to Form OCs & Chapters)



3: The initial Organizing Committee (OC) of 3 people at a minimum is tasked with recruiting enough people to form a new Bund chapter for a particular geographic area. They should meet regularly and can also hold events to aid this early state of organizing

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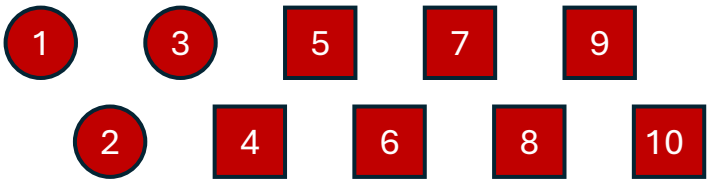

10: The Organizing Committee of 3 is dissolved once it's gotten 7 additional people (10 total) to officially form a chapter and has convened the first official chapter meeting to redistribute organizing responsibilities

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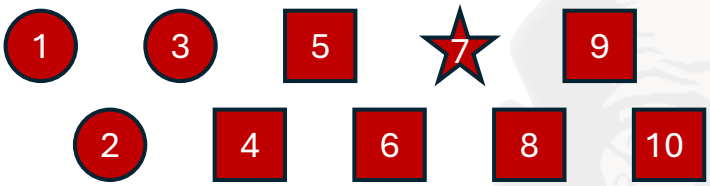

3: 3 new local roles are elected at the first meeting of the new chapter. At least 1 "delegate" (star) is also chosen from any of the members (whether on a committee or not) to represent the chapter at the International level

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Some chapters will likely start off covering larger geographic areas, but once more people are involved, more localized organizing committees and chapters can be established

Vision for the Bund

Building on the 3 pillars of Hereness, Jewishness, and Solidarity we want to paint a picture of a movement that is **radically Jewish, deeply grounded, and oriented toward justice in every direction**.

1. Living Jewish Culture for All

Jewish culture is not owned by institutions, it lives in the people

We celebrate and expand access to the full spectrum of grassroots Jewish culture in all its historical and contemporary forms. Art, music, literature, languages, foodways, fashion, film, memory, and treasure are not just preserved, but actively lived and shared in diverse and inclusive ways. We create and support local and diasporic cultural spaces that are accessible, participatory, and joyful. We honor Yiddishkayt as a living legacy among many, and uplift all Jewish cultural expressions.

2. Grounded in Community, Rooted in Care

We are embedded in Jewish communities, not as an online phenomenon, but as a living, material force

The Bund is embedded in local Jewish communal life, creating spaces of mutual aid, cultural exchange, and solidarity that respond to real needs. We refuse the marginalization of Jewish working people by reclaiming space, presence, and agency in the places where we live, gather, and struggle. Through shared meals, cultural gatherings, and mutual aid networks, we turn political values into lived relationships; we connect the personal and the collective, the everyday and the transformative. We meet people where they are, build bridges, and reject elitism. We organize *as Jews* – not despite it, not apologetically, and not only online.

3. Jews in the Struggle

We are not allies, we are stakeholders

In labor, housing, feminist, environmental, and urban justice movements, the Bund shows up as a Jewish force – not from the outside, but from within. Jewish liberation is bound up with the liberation of all people, and we bring our history of struggle and resistance to today's coalitions. We view Jewish voices as integral to movement work, not exceptional to it.

4. Liberation for All Peoples

We stand against occupation, apartheid, and nationalism

We believe in a just peace for Palestinians and Israelis. The Bund works toward a vision of shared liberation that goes beyond critique. We hold space for diaspora Jews to speak and act with clarity, courage, and care, knowing that there are many visions of what liberation might look like, and many fears and wounds that shape how we relate to that work. We strive to be a place where the full range of liberatory ideas can be explored in good faith, grounded in solidarity, historical understanding, and a shared commitment to justice for all peoples.

Chicagoland Chapter Charter

Article I

Section 1: To count as a *full member* of the Chicagoland Chapter of the IJLB, then one must meet the following criteria:

Have agreed to the Points of Unity listed on the official IJLB Provisional Membership form or that form's official successors;

Have agreed to the Code of Conduct listed on the official IJLB Provisional Membership form or that form's official successors;

Have undergone an onboarding meeting with an approved member of the Chicagoland Bund; and

Have joined the Chicagoland Chapter's official members-only Signal or other, official communication channel limited to the membership.

Section 2: To count as an *active member* of the Chicagoland Bund, then one must meet the following criteria:

Meet all the Section 1 criteria; and

Have participated in a meeting or an event of the Chicagoland Bund in the past 6-months (following an initial buffer period of 6-months upon completing Section 1 and joining the chapter).

Section 3: All references to *the membership* in this charter refer to all full members of the Chicagoland Bund, not just active members.

Article II

Section 1: The default method for making any decision or taking any action *as a chapter* is to poll the *active membership*. Here, a simple majority vote among voting members is sufficient for approval. If polling the membership electronically, votes should be available for at least 72 hours. Additionally, Shabbos and other holidays where observing members cannot use their phones our excluded from counting towards the 72-hour window.

Section 2: The membership, through the method outlined in Section 1, can delegate decision-making and/or action-taking power to any specified subset of the active membership.

Section 3: The membership can revoke powers granted under Section 2 through the method outlined in Section 1.

Section 4: The membership can adopt stricter voting standards, such as requiring a super majority or unanimity among voting members, for granting or revoking powers only with a vote that itself meets the heightened requirements.

Section 5: The active membership can adopt quorum requirements, such as requiring that half of the active membership participates in a vote, for granting or revoking powers. However, that vote of the active membership must itself meet the proposed quorum.

Section 6: Decisions delegating power must be in writing and made accessible to the entire membership.

Article III

Section 1: The roles described in Article III are exempt from the requirements listed in Article II and are instead governed by Article III.

Section 2: The following roles must be filled by *active members*: 3 International Delegates, and 3 Chapter Conveners, The members elected to fill these roles constitute the organization's Organizing Committee.

Section 3: Each member of the Organizing Committee serves for contemporaneous, 6-month terms. In the event that any of the members of the Organizing Committee are unable to finish their term, then a new election must be held to fill the position for the remainder of the term.

Section 4: To be elected to the OC, a candidate must win a plurality of the votes cast for the position the candidate ran for on the OC. Should there be an uncontested election, the OC must be ratified by membership through an "Uncontested Election Ratification Poll" of which the entire proposed OC must again receive a plurality of votes cast in favor.

Section 5: The responsibilities of each of the members of the Organizing Committee are as follows:

1st International Delegate:

- Initial IJLB Voting Delegate when under 20 active members

2nd International Delegate:

- 2nd Voting Delegate when between 20 - 30 active members

3rd International Delegate:

- 3rd Voting Delegate when over 30 active members

Alternate International Delegates

- Substitute Voting Delegates when any active Voting Delegate is absent and cannot attend an IJLB Delegate Body Meeting

Local Conveners

- Responsible for ensuring the Chapter meets at its agreed upon interval of every 4 – 6 weeks to ensure active status

Section 6: The Chapter's internal functions shall be segmented into 6 committees and their associated Working Groups:

Khavershaft

- Community building, local events, solidarity

Education

- Content creation, program assistance, history, reading groups, Ladino, Yiddish

Workers

- Building worker power, relationship building, May Day, unions

Membership & Development

- Recruitment, Airtable Management, Chapter development

Communications

- Internal and External comms, social media, emails

Administration

- Records mgt, finance, election mgt, internal governance

Section 7: Committee Members may deputize any active member to assist them in fulfilling their responsibilities.

Section 8: Committee Members should create, update, and maintain guidelines on the scope of their responsibilities that are readily accessible to the membership.