

[United States](#)

Elissa Slotkin sworn into Senate on Reform movement women's Torah commentary

Slotkin, who eked out a victory in November, is one of 34 Jewish members of Congress this session.

By [Philissa Cramer](#) January 5, 2025



U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris (R) participates in a ceremonial swearing-in with Sen. Elissa Slotkin, as her father Curt holds a Jewish text at the U.S. Capitol, Jan. 3, 2025. (Alex Wong/Getty Images)

When it came time to choose the text on which she would be sworn into the U.S. Senate, Elissa Slotkin turned to a relatively recent book that reflects her own identity as a Jewish woman.

Slotkin, a former congresswoman who [narrowly won her election in November](#), took the oath of office Friday on a copy of “The Torah: A Women’s Commentary,” published in 2008 by the Reform movement of Judaism.

Women of Reform Judaism, the movement’s women’s organization, celebrated Slotkin’s choice on social media, noting that the book was [the first full Torah commentary to feature only contributions from women](#).

“We are so excited that this book is being used for such a joyous and momentous occasion,” the group [said on Facebook](#), where it shared a picture of Slotkin holding up the text. “There have only ever been 60 women to serve in the United States Senate, so being part of this moment in women’s history and American history is an honor.”

Slotkin has longstanding ties to the Reform movement. When [a man was charged with “ethnic intimidation”](#) after harassing families outside a Reform synagogue in suburban Detroit in 2022, she [shared](#) that her grandparents had helped construct the building and that she had celebrated her bat mitzvah inside.

Slotkin is one of [34 Jewish members of the 119th Congress](#). The other newly elected Jewish senator, Democrat Adam Schiff, was [sworn in temporarily last month on a 1490 edition of Maimonides’ Mishneh Torah](#), one of the most revered and prominent codes of Jewish law, before being sworn in for a full six-year term on Friday.

Three Jews were newly elected to the House of Representatives: Democrat Laura Friedman of California, who is filling the seat Schiff vacated; [Republican Craig Goldman of Texas](#); and [Democrat Eugene Vindman of Virginia](#).

North Carolina Gov. Josh Stein was [sworn in last week](#) on an 1891 edition of the Hebrew Bible.