

JCRC Government Affairs Work

JCPA | JEWISH COUNCIL
FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS
THE POWER OF THE NETWORK

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Organizing JCRC Government Affairs Work

The Government Affairs work is at the center of the work of the JCRC. The JCRC should regularly engage with elected officials at the national, state, and local levels to advocate in support of its priority issues, from domestic legislation that impacts the Federations agencies and issues based public policy concerns that are priority concerns of the Jewish community, to those that the national and international levels. The JCRC should also share statements on current events and educate on Israel, anti-Semitism and concerns related to the safety and security of the Jewish people.

Setting the Public Policy Agenda

The JCRC public policy agenda is led by two national organizations – Jewish Federation of North America Washington Office (JFNA) and the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA), which convenes the JCRC's around the country and other Jewish communal groups to set priorities. The JCRC acts as the local convener of these groups and helps to carry out their work at the local level.

- JFNA public policy priorities are set with input from all the Federations and agency executives around North America with the aim of ensuring that Federal and State legislation does not harm the system while they help to leverage government dollars and policy to help the most vulnerable and the day to day operations of our charities and work.
 - Policy examples include: emergency food and housing (FEMA dollars), Older Americans act and aging in place, incentives for charitable giving and supporting interests of non-profits, helping the Jewish community alleviate poverty, strong support for Homeland security, advocating on behalf of persons with disabilities and/or mental illness.
- JCPA public policy priorities are set by JCRCs and Jewish communal groups that help to reflect priority issues for the community relations field, Israel, and safety and security of the Jewish people.
 - Policy Examples include: Countering Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, Support for Israel and a two-state solution, Iran Sanctions, Criminal Justice Reform, anti-Semitism, fighting poverty with faith, Human Trafficking, ending hunger, and election programming.
- Jewish State Associations of Jewish Federations public policy priorities are also framed mostly by JFNA priorities, but statewide issues of priority are also included.
- Local JCRCs set their own priorities based on the Partnership initiatives and other opportunities and concerns that arise. These priorities are shared with the Federation President and Executive VP to ensure that they are vetted and represent the full Board of Trustees.
 - Initiatives include: election programming, legislative breakfasts, meetings with legislators, encouraging people to vote, mobilizing the community to take action, missions to DC, State Capital, and counties.

Building and Sustaining Relationships with the Elected Officials

Congress people

A core function of a JCRC is to have strong relationships with the Congressmen its area. The JCRC should regularly visit each of these elected officials either at their home office or in Washington DC. This is sometimes done with JCRC delegates to discuss our overall priority issues based on JFNA and JCPA issue and leadership, and other times to discuss our position on specific issues of national importance. The JCRC also helps to bring co-sponsor opportunities for the community to meet with legislators by inviting them to speak at Federation programs and synagogues.

- U.S. Senators –The JCRC should have a strong working relationship with Senators and should directly interact with their offices for invitations such as to Super Sunday, specific issue-based legislative work of priority to our JCRC, and other needs that arise. The JCRC should engage with these offices through a liaison to the Jewish community who is a very important partner in this work.
- Congressmen/women – The JCRC should have a strong working relationship with Congressman/women and should directly interact with their offices for invitations such as to Super Sunday, specific issue-based legislative work of priority to our JCRC, and other needs that arise. The JCRC should engage with these offices through a liaison to the Jewish community who is a very important partner in this work.

State Legislators

The JCRC is primarily responsible for relationships with the state legislators in its catchment area. These legislators are responsible for voting on many issues that will impact on the Federation system. On all State issues, the JCRC should work in close partnership with the State Association that sets and monitors the agenda of legislation that impacts the Federation system and provides it with action items that need to be carried out. Most of the relationships with these legislators are built by outreach with Federation volunteers who live in a specific district working with the JCRC, or by engaging the legislators as a leader on an issue-based concern that the JCRC introduces to them to and guides them on i.e. the food stamp challenge, Human Trafficking legislation and follow-up, condemning anti-Semitism and BDS, study tours to Israel, Iran divestment, Charity donations, to name a few.

Many JCRCs have a Legislative Breakfast for their State legislators to meet with the JCRC and Agency Executives to discuss priority issues and to hear what is most important to them.

The JCRC should also work closely with the Governor's Office.

Local Legislators

The JCRC engages with local Mayors and Freeholders on an ad hoc basis. The most important Mayors to establish relationships with are those of the large cities in the JCRC's area. It is also important to have relationships with the County Executives/Administrators. The JCRC should have on its committee lay-leaders who hold positions or have strong political relationships in the different counties that help to guide work at the local level when needed. Many mayors are interested in participating in issue oriented actions and efforts.

Election Programming

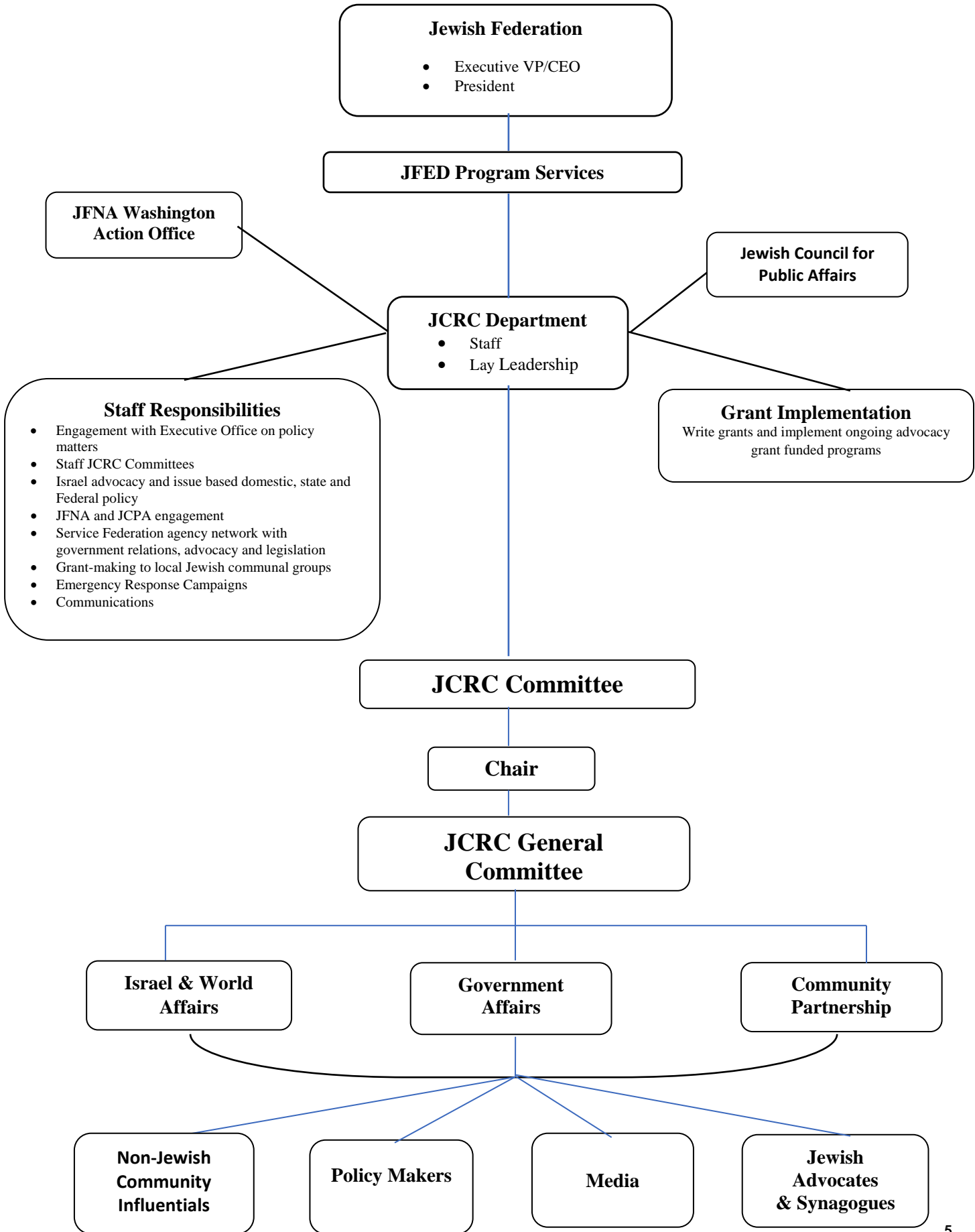
Election programming is a key core function of the JCRC. It is imperative that the Jewish community remain a strong power base and influencer around the country. It should never take for granted that elected officials will support Federation concerns or Israel. Therefore, it is the JCRC's duty to help educate the Jewish Community on candidates' positions on our priority areas both in person through candidate forums and through the Jewish newspapers, and encourage the Jewish community to come out and vote. Although votes are private, legislators know who participates in voting as that information is collected by them when you sign-in to the voting booth. Additionally, it is important for people to hear the facts first hand and not through reporting by media which can often times be slanted or reduced to a sound bite.

It is imperative that the JCRC strictly follow 501(c)3 laws and remain bi-partisan in its voter education. Each election-cycle the JCPA provides the field with guidelines on this matter. When it comes to Senatorial, Presidential and Gubernatorial elections, the Democratic and Republican parties should look the JCRC to help work with them to organize functions. These programs usually take place after the primaries except for special circumstances such as the death of a Congressman. The biggest challenge is to find a common date. All programs have to be carefully scripted and timed including questions and rebuttal and who gets to answer first etc. Both parties will need to approve the terms and will want to ensure fairness. The usual outline is: 5-7 questions asked one at a time by a JCRC leader, 3-minute responses, and 1-minute rebuttals by the other candidates. There is an opening statement and closing statement by each candidate.

Engagement in the Public Sphere

The JCRC has identified a new area that needs to be addressed – ensuring Jewish involvement in the public sphere at the state and local levels. The relationships with local and state leaders are imperative for support for all our issues as well as continuing to be seen as an important player and interest group in the community. There are fewer Jewish people running for office or being appointed to local and state commissions, committees, and other opportunities. By helping to educate the community on how local politics work and to encourage appointments and nominations, the JCRC can help to turn around this trend.

Working Within a Jewish Federation



In-District Meetings

Tips for Making a Personal Visit to a Legislator

- Call the legislator's office to make an appointment.
- Follow the scheduler's instructions for requesting a meeting. This may include an email request. Be sure to include the number of people participating and what issues you want to discuss.
- Confirm the appointment a day or two prior to your meeting.
- Make sure to arrive 5-10 minutes early. If the legislator or official is late, be patient and flexible.
- Don't be disappointed if your meeting is with a staff person. There is great value in educating and building a relationship with the key staff people on your issues — they play a vital role in decision-making in the legislative process.
- Bring information about your organization and a one-pager outlining each policy position you are discussing to leave with the policymaker or staffer. You can find prepared one-pagers in the Talking Points section.

Preparing for the Meeting

An effective visit should include the following components:

- A clear statement about your organization and why you are there.
- An explanation of the issue(s) and what you want the decisionmaker to do about it.
- One or more personal stories illustrating why the issue is important to you and your community. *This may be a great opportunity, depending on your legislator's orientation, to discuss your views as a person of faith.*
- A request for a commitment: "will you support/oppose this proposal?"
- A thank you letter.

Assigning Roles

It is important to prepare for your meeting ahead of time by assigning roles and agreeing to time allotments. Considering that you have a limited timeframe for your meeting, it is important to stay focused and to ensure that you cover your full agenda. If you have a small group, give everyone an opportunity to present. If you have a larger group, ensure that you identify speakers. We suggest meeting beforehand to set the agenda and script. Inform your delegation on the position of the legislator that you are meeting with and what you are asking of them.

Leader: Confirms meeting time and location. Introduces the group and the Jewish Community Relations Council and JCPA briefly. Keeps time and ensures that the visit is on track, and that everyone has a chance to speak. Collects business cards from legislative staffer at the end and leaves the legislative leave-behind materials at the end.

Issue Presenter: Delivers the message, making it personal (by telling a story or sharing a personal experience), and speaks to why the legislator should act. Makes “the ask” and is prepared to respond depending on the legislator’s position. (See pages 7-8 for how to deal with different stances).

Social Media Reporter:

- Takes pictures of group during the visit.
- Tweets and shares the experience on Facebook after the visit.

Creating a Meeting Agenda

Opener:

- Express thanks for meeting with the delegation and collect business cards from staff.
- Introduce the group (individually, if a small group).
- Provide brief intro to the JCRC and JCPA: who we are, how many we represent.
- Tell why you are here: to introduce the issue(s) you’re advocating for today.
- Thank legislator for past support. A review of your legislator’s voting record should reveal a vote on a bill or cosponsorship of legislation that you appreciate (www.congress.gov/members).

Issue Presentation:

- State the problem that must be addressed by policy change.
- State the policy solution and why JCPA/JCRCs support this position.
- Personal story: share your experiences or perspective.
- State “the ask,” what they can do (refer to “How to Deal with Agreement or Opposition” on pages 7 and 8).
- Wait for a response – be sure to listen!
- Offer to be a resource or to send additional information.

Wrap-up:

- Review comments, commitments, and follow-up requests for the issue.
- Thank legislator/staff for their time.
- Leave your business card and legislative materials.

After the Meeting

Thank You Letter: It is very important to email a thank you letter to the individual(s) with whom you met. In addition to saying thank you, it should include a written reminder of what took place at the meeting, any action you are asking the legislator to take and, if relevant, their commitment to cosponsor, support, or oppose a specific piece of legislation.

Debrief and Meeting Report: After your visit, it is important to debrief about the meeting and to follow up with any requests for additional information made by the congressional office. We also recommend writing a brief summary of what took place that includes the following:

- Date, time, and name of person with whom you met.
- Questions asked by the legislator or staff person.
- Follow-up materials or information requested by the legislator or staff person.
- Summary of the legislator's position and willingness to support your requests.

Keep this information for future reference, share it with your coalition partners, and email it to Tammy Gilden at tgilden@thejcpa.org.

How to Deal with Agreement or Opposition

What if the policymaker **STRONGLY AGREES** with my position?

- **Thank the policymaker.**
- **Ask the policymaker to take a leadership role on this issue:**
 - Make a public statement in support of this issue
 - Urge colleagues to support the issue
 - Pressure House or Senate Leadership to take up the issue and to educate undecided col- leagues
- **Ask the policymaker’s advice about talking with other policymakers**—whom to talk with, what arguments make the best case for the issue, and what media strategy will be most effective in gathering support for the policy.
- **Ask what information or constituency would be helpful in swaying additional policymakers** to your position. Then work to produce these materials or advocates.
- **Thank the policymaker again.**

What if the policymaker **AGREES** with my position?

- **Thank the policymaker.**
- **Assure the policymaker of your continued interest in the issue and your continued support for the position they have taken.**
 - Ask if you can count on the policymaker to take more of a leadership role on the issue
 - Ask what the policymaker is currently doing to promote the issue and what the Jewish and broader faith community can do to help
 - Ask if the policymaker is aware of the proposed legislation related to the issue, and follow up with materials if necessary
- **Ask if the policymaker would be willing to help in any way beyond voting.** If yes, refer to the tips under **STRONGLY AGREES**.
- **Thank the policymaker again.**

What if the policymaker is **UNDECIDED** or **NONCOMMITTAL**?

- **Thank the policymaker.**
- **Inform the policymaker of your interest in the issue or legislation.**
- **Ask about the policymaker’s viewpoint** to investigate whether his/her position arises from per- sonal or political factors, a lack of information, misinformation, or a combination of these factors. Adjust your strategy accordingly.
- **Present the case as clearly and concisely as possible.**

- **Ask if there are specific groups or individuals from whom the policymaker would like to hear on this issue.**
- **Offer to provide information that will help inform the policymaker about the issue.**
- **Thank the policymaker again for the opportunity to talk with them.**
- **Express thanks for their support or disappointment for non-support once the policymaker has indicated a position.**
- **Follow up by providing the information you promised** and/or that addresses the policymaker's reservations. Send a positive story from the Member's district and emphasize how individuals in the district would be helped by the proposed legislation.
- **Stay in touch to nurture the relationship with the policymaker.**

What if the policymaker is OPPOSED to my position?

- **Thank the policymaker for the opportunity to present your views.**
- **Determine how strong the policymaker's position is**, and upon what it is based. If the opposition is not vehement, it may be worth trying to change his/her position.
- **If the policymaker appears movable, present information that addresses his/her concerns.** Make sure that the policymaker hears from constituents who support your position. Strategize and present the case most likely to resonate with this particular policymaker.
- **Thank the policymaker again for the opportunity to present your views.**
- **Follow up by providing the information you promised** and/or that addresses the policymaker's reservations. Send a positive story from the Member's district and emphasize how individuals in the district would be helped by the proposed legislation.
- **Stay in touch to nurture the relationship with the policymaker.**

What if the policymaker is STRONGLY OPPOSED to my position?

- **Thank the policymaker for the opportunity to talk.**
- **Ask him/her not to lobby colleagues on the issue.**
- **Write and express your disappointment in the position and/or vote taken.** Don't expend your time and energy trying to move this particular policymaker.

JCPA 2016 ELECTION ENGAGEMENT GUIDE

Introduction

JCPA created this packet of resources, tools, priority issues, and best practices to assist Jewish Community Relations Councils (JCRC) and Jewish advocates with organizing candidate programs and "Get Out the Vote" activities.

Important elections at the federal, state, and local levels are just months away, with vital issues-including the economy, civil rights, poverty, climate change, immigration, national security, and the U.S.-Israel relationship-at stake. The Jewish community has a rich and proud tradition of civic engagement and voter education. As Election Day approaches, JCPA strongly encourages JCRCs to work with local synagogues and partner with Jewish community groups to organize voter education events and candidate outreach activities.

It is a core American Jewish value-a civic and religious duty-to participate in the democratic process by educating ourselves about critical issues and, most importantly, turning out to vote. These efforts will help to ensure that the Jewish community has a voice in shaping our country's policies at every level of government.

JCRCs play an important role in this arena by fostering relationships with elected officials, engaging the local Jewish community, and serving as a bridge between the two.

501(c)(3) Election Programming Guidelines

Before you get started, make sure to carefully review the [guidelines](#) JCRCs must follow as part of their 501(c)(3) status. Remember to refer back throughout your programming to ensure you adhere to all rules.

Partner with Jewish Press and Use Social Media

We recommend that JCRCs work with their local Jewish papers to publicize upcoming events and create a special section dedicated to voter education. Together, JCRCs and newspaper staff can prepare a candidate questionnaire covering five to seven topics. Both partners should then publish the responses in print and online, as well as through social media. Many people, especially younger generations, get information primarily through social media, so it is a critical component of programming for reaching your entire community and provide information on your priority issues.

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Election Engagement Timeline

Use this timeline to help guide your organization's engagement in the upcoming election and top issues. In this guide, you can find suggested activities, program tips, and sample materials for all the items listed below.

September

- Plan a candidate forum. Extend invitations to all legally-qualified candidates as soon as possible.
- Plan "issue nights" to educate members in a non-partisan fashion about important policy issues.
- Contact local college students to remind them to register at their new address or obtain absentee ballots.

October

- Place an ad/article in synagogue, community, and organizational bulletins or newsletters reminding people to vote.
- Coordinate transportation to the polls.
- Plan a date to help your members who are homebound or in nursing homes complete their absentee ballots.
- Ask all local rabbis to give a sermon on the importance of civic participation and voting.
- Send out postcards and/or coordinate a phone drive reminding people to vote using community-wide Federation membership lists.

November

- Call community members, especially college students, on November 7th to remind them to vote.
- Organize youth movements and day schools to volunteer at local polling stations.
- VOTE ON NOVEMBER STH!**
- Host a community-wide **Election Night Watch Party**, where community members can socialize and watch election night coverage and results.
- Invite speakers to discuss policy implications of the elections.
- Plan a "Meet-and-Greet" with newly elected officials.

Election Programs: Candidate Forums, Leadership Meetings, and Issue Nights

The campaign season is the perfect time for JCRCs to engage with incumbents and candidates who may go on to be elected officials. While it is important to reach out to candidates for federal office, JCRCs should also actively engage state and local candidates, who play a central role in developing the policies that significantly impact our community. In addition, local elected officials often go on to seek higher office. Building strong relationships with these officials early in their careers can yield long-term benefits.

Candidate Forums

Hosting a **candidate forum**, where candidates speak directly with voters and answer their questions, is one of the best ways to educate voters and form bonds with aspiring officeholders. Forums demonstrate our strong engagement and voice in public life to local civic leaders and those seeking elected office. Candidate forums tend to be high-profile, public events that unite community members and attract new participants to JCRCs, particularly young adults interested in politics.

General Tips

- Invite all legally qualified candidates either through their campaign office or political party.
- If you are concerned about inviting a third party, the Internal Revenue Service offers [additional guidance](#).
- Provide candidates with equal time to speak and interact with voters, either at the same session or through a sequential format.
- Typically, forum sessions last between 60 and 90 minutes.
- Hold the forum at a Jewish facility: a local Federation office, Jewish Community Center, synagogue or other place of worship, or other nonprofit or Jewish agency.
- Consider partnering with another Jewish community group, such as the Anti-Defamation League, American Jewish Congress, Hadassah, National Council of Jewish Women; synagogues; and Hillels in your area.

Getting Started

Before reaching out to the candidates, JCRCs should meet with participating sponsors to determine the event's rules, format, and preferred location. Once this is confirmed it is important to invite all candidates to appear together. If they refuse, you can hold a sequential debate where each candidate appears directly after the other and answers identical questions in the same format. Typically, candidates are willing to pose for a handshake photo-op.

Prepare six questions ahead of time for pre-identified lay leaders to ask candidates, after which the moderator can take three questions from the audience. Keep in mind that questions should reflect a broad range of topics, not just those deemed of interest to the sponsor(s), and should not express the organization's position. Have golf pencils and cards ready for the audience to write down their questions. Click [here](#) for suggested JCPA questions.

It is also important to have a moderator who will remain neutral at all times. Past moderators have included JCRC Chairs, local reporters, and political science professors.

Structuring the Forum

Candidate rules should govern the length of opening remarks and the amount of time allotted for responses and rebuttals to questions. Here is a suggested structure:

- JCRCs open the forum with a brief overview of their mission and the Jewish community's commitment to voter education as the reason for hosting the forum. This is an important step as it frames the discussion for the candidates and the audience, and introduces them to your organization.
- Each candidate has three minutes for their opening statement. Remember to set the order in which candidates will speak ahead of time and ensure that each candidate is aware of the schedule.
- Ask six prepared questions. These can be asked by the moderator or by JCRC leaders. Question responses should be no longer than two minutes and candidates should take turns being the first to respond to questions. The opportunity for rebuttal is at your discretion, but should be no more than one minute.
- We encourage audience questions, but highly recommended that organizers have audience members write their questions on cards for a designated person or group to vet.
- Each candidate gets two to three minutes for their closing statement.

Once the organizers have determined the forum's format and debate structure, the rules must be agreed to by each candidate before they will agree to participate.

Optional

After the event, feel free to host a short reception for community attendees and participating candidates. This provides JCRC leaders with the opportunity to foster more personal relationships with future elected officials, engage new participants, and build bonds with other community and civic leaders.

Leadership Meetings with Candidates

During election campaigns, JCRCs can organize a private meeting between Jewish leaders and candidates running for office in order to discuss their policy positions and priorities. These **leadership meetings** are an excellent opportunity to connect with candidates and future decision-makers in a more intimate setting with fewer legal restrictions than other types of election engagement activities, such as candidate forums.

It is imperative that you invite all candidates running for a given office and that the meetings with them have identical agendas.

Since this may be the candidate's first interaction with the community relations field, it is important to host the meeting at your own facility or another affiliated location, such as a local Federation, synagogue, or Jewish Community Center. Hosting a leadership meeting is a means of demonstrating the organized Jewish community's civic engagement and power as a voting bloc.

Leadership meetings are usually scheduled for an hour, and feature the following components:

- The JCRC or Federation leader provides an overall introduction to the Jewish community and its priority issues.
- The candidate gives an opening presentation (typically five minutes).
- Community leaders ask candidates five to six policy questions that have been set in advance. Questions should be brief.
- At the end of the meeting, attendees present the candidate with a short packet offering general information about the JCRC and Federation, and an overview of the priority issues. Include a list of the meeting participants with titles and contact information.

Please feel free to use our [policy statements](#). Attendees should also offer to be a resource to candidates and staff should they need any information pertaining to the Jewish community.

Issue Nights

Issue nights are public meetings designed to raise awareness about specific issues facing the community and provide balanced educational resources about these issues. These programs feature a panel of speakers representing a broad range of views on a particular subject, issue nights are an effective way to highlight particular topics and engage in election activism without involving candidates.

JCRCs may wish to cosponsor issue nights with other local organizations. This is an especially effective way to form new relationships and strengthen existing ones, particularly with issue-centric groups.

Issue nights are usually scheduled for 60 to 90 minutes, and feature the following elements:

- JCRC leadership introduce the program and welcome all of the participants.
- It is important to state that the event is intended to be educational only and that the JCRC does not endorse any candidate. Nothing at this event should be construed as an endorsement of any candidate in any way. However, JCRCs may take positions on public policy issues.
- After the hosts' introduction, present the debate topic and panel.
- Each speaker gives roughly 10 to 15 minutes of opening remarks.
- Afterwards, speakers may pose questions to each other before proceeding to an audience question and answer period.
- A short reception may follow this event.

Get Out the Vote Activities

JCPA supports JCRC efforts to encourage the Jewish community to vote. As in most election years, there has been talk about the effect of the "Jewish vote." While Jews comprise less than 3% of the population, the Jewish community's outsized influence in the political realm stems primarily from our high voter participation rates and concentration in states carrying a large number of electoral votes.

The Jewish community has a stake in many issues, including education, health care, the environment, Israel, the conflict in the Middle East, civil rights, and religious freedom, that form the core of the debate in this election year. By exercising the right to vote, we can have a say in charting the future course for our great nation.

Though more people are registered to vote, unfortunately, voter turnout has steadily dropped in recent elections. Almost 50% of eligible voters do not vote in presidential elections and even fewer do so in less prominent state and local elections. Legislators and political parties know that the Jewish community votes. To ensure that our voice continues to matter, it is important that we vote in all federal, state, and local races.

JCPA recommends that JCRCs participate in the following activities:

- Place "Get Out the Vote" ads in local Jewish papers and work with local Federations to email "Get Out the Vote" reminders to your Jewish Community. [Click here for sample reminders.](#)
- Post user-friendly information on how to register on your website. Registering to vote is now easier than ever before. With the advent of the National Mail- In Voter Registration form the registration process has been simplified. It is now possible to register over the internet at a number of different websites including [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).
- Assist seniors and those with disabilities in exploring their voting options. [Click here for more information.](#)
- Collaborate with the local Hillel to encourage students to vote.
- Form a coalition with other community groups to help other minority groups get out the vote and on integrity programs.

JCPA also the cosponsor of a [Get Out the Vote Guide 2016](#) with the Religious Action Center that has great checklists and recommendations.

Overview of the JCPA Policy Adoption Process

Each year, JCPA convenes its network of 16 national agencies and 125 Jewish community relations councils to identify and build consensus on today's most pressing matters through our resolutions process. Adopted resolutions become Jewish community relations policy. By participating in JCPA's resolution setting process, your leadership has the opportunity to set national policy for the Jewish community. Resolutions form the backbone of JCPA and help guide the work of the network at the local and national levels.

Our JCPA website hosts a compendium of the resolutions adopted by JCPA's network. This compendium of resolutions, along with new resolutions adopted at the JCPA Annual Conference, influence and drive the work of our professional staff, our task forces, and our affiliate members. Our adopted resolutions guide our collective actions and serves as a menu of issues for our field to prioritize and activate around.

It is here that the “real fun” actually unfolds. In a convention-type setting that uses a proportionate, consensus based voting system for decision-making, a setting characterized by controlled chaos, healthy debate and compromise, these resolutions are put to a vote by our membership.

Each year, our Task Forces and Member Agencies develop and submit suggested resolutions to be debated at our annual conference. Throughout the ensuing months leading up to the Town Hall, experts and wordsmiths review these proposed resolutions before they are drafted, by consensus agreement, into resolutions that are formally presented at the conference, and in a convention-type setting that uses a proportionate, consensus based voting system for decision-making, characterized by controlled chaos, healthy debate and compromise, these resolutions are put to a vote by our membership.

Some of our recent policy priorities include health care, immigration and refugees, voting rights, church-state separation, and support for Israeli-Palestinian coexistence programs. Learn more at www.jewishpublicaffairs.org/issues.

Important Dates and Deadlines

- **Eight Months Prior to Conference** JCRCs and national agencies submit suggestions for resolution topics. To check if JCPA has existing policy on your topic, we encourage you to review JCPA's policy compendium.
- **Seven Months Prior to Conference** JCPA notifies member agencies whether or not their topics were chosen for resolutions, and explains next steps.
- **Five Months Prior to Conference** Sponsoring agencies submit their draft resolutions by December 5. Each resolution must have at least three of the required five cosponsors.

- **Four Months Prior to Conference** JCPA sends draft resolutions for all member agencies to review. We encourage all member agencies to schedule time to go over the draft resolutions with their leadership and submit revisions, comments, and other feedback to JCPA by Months end.
- **Three Months Prior to Conference** Member agencies submit feedback on the draft resolutions, which JCPA compiles and shares with the resolution sponsors.
- **Two Months Prior to Conference** Sponsors submit revised resolutions to JCPA for Policy Advisory Committee review and approval.
- **One Month Prior to Conference** JCPA sends the field the final draft resolutions that will be debated and voted on at JCPA's national conference. Remember to schedule time for your leadership to vet the resolutions prior to the conference.
- **JCPA Conference** Member agencies vote on the resolutions during JCPA's national conference.

JCPA's Policy Compendium

JCPA's Policy Compendium is an encyclopedic compilation of the Jewish community relations network's last 70 years of policy. Organized by issue, each section provides an overview of JCPA resolutions, making it easy to locate different topics and search for key words.

As a member of the network, you can use our policy language word-for-word as your own or tweaked to best suit your needs. Many of our JCRCs find this particularly useful when a new or controversial issue crops up. Resolutions represent vetted consensus positions from the 125 JCRCs and 16 national agencies, so they may be helpful in settling policy disagreements, determining your position on a particular issue, and circumventing the need to relitigate policy issues.

Once you have found the relevant policy, you can locate the source in parentheses at the end of the paragraph or section. If you would like to obtain the full text of a resolution, please do not hesitate to reach out to staff or email us at jcpainfo@thejcpa.org.

Each year, we update the Compendium to include newly adopted resolutions. You can always find the most recent version on our website.

SAMPLE DRAFT RESOLUTION

JEWISH COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS
DRAFT RESOLUTION ON COMBATING HUMAN
TRAFFICKING IN THE UNITED STATES

Sponsored by MetroWest, Atlanta, Miami, Northern New Jersey, Southern New Jersey, National Council of Jewish Women, Jewish Labor Committee, Jewish Women International

A resolution must be sponsored by 5 sponsors, including 2 national agencies and 2 local agencies

Summary: Heeding the national call for action initiated by the White House Advisory Council on Faith-based and Community Partnerships, this resolution calls for comprehensive action to ending human trafficking – modern day slavery – in the United States through awareness raising; education; federal, state and local laws; federal regulations; executive orders; government oversight; law enforcement; coalition work; and best business practices. The JCPA has existing policy that addresses the scope of human trafficking, but does not call on the Jewish community to take coordinated and comprehensive action to raise awareness, educate, and eradicate modern day slavery in the U.S.

A summary or case statement explains the need for the resolution and will include reference to any relevant existing JCPA policy.

1 Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery. Human
2 trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, and/or coercion for the
3 purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor and, under federal
4 and state law, does not require movement of people across borders.

Lines 1-70 consists of background information explaining why a policy position should be taken. It is not technically part of the final resolution, and is not voted upon. However, the language often informs future policy work.

This is where education on the issue and rationale for its need is provided.

Changes to this section may be proposed prior to voting on the floor.

5
6 It is believed there are currently 27 million slaves
7 worldwide. The U.S. State Department estimates that 600,000 to
8 800,000 people are victims of human trafficking in the U.S.
9 annually, 100,000-300,000 of which are children.

10
11 Human trafficking is a hidden crime that is seriously
12 underreported. Within the U.S., both citizens and foreign nationals
13 – women, men, teenagers, and children – can fall prey to
14 traffickers who may threaten their lives and those of their families,
15 isolate victims, and make it impossible for them to escape.
16 According to federal law, human trafficking includes sex and labor
17 trafficking.

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- Sex Trafficking – Victims of sex trafficking can be found working in massage parlors, brothels, strip clubs, and escort services. They can be found through the internet and on the street. They are often lured by false promises and ultimately forced into prostitution. Not all of those engaged in sex work are trafficked, but many are.

- Labor Trafficking – Victims of labor trafficking can be found in many types of domestic and non-domestic situations. They work as nannies and maids, in sweatshops, janitorial jobs, restaurants, hair and nail salons, in street sales and on construction sites and farms. The victims are trapped into a cycle of involuntary servitude, debt bondage, and slavery.

- Minors – More than 50% of victims worldwide are estimated to be under the age of 18. Under U.S. law any person under 18 involved in the commercial sex industry is considered a human trafficking victim. Minors are usually the victims of domestic sex trafficking within the U.S. Investigations conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice have revealed that at least 100,000 American children are exploited through prostitution every year. Commercial sexual exploitation affects females and males of all ethnicities and demographics, especially within vulnerable populations such as those in the foster care system, runaways, and immigrants. Most victims of sex trafficking are female, and the average age at which a minor is trafficked is 13 years old. Children are also found as victims of labor trafficking.

48 In 2000, the 106th Congress passed the first comprehensive
49 federal law addressing human trafficking – the Trafficking
50 Victims Protection Act (TVPA) – that required the U.S.
51 Department of State to release an annual Trafficking in Persons
52 (TIP) report to monitor trafficking globally among other critical
53 measures in the bill. The TVPA has been reauthorized many
54 times, last in 2013, with many meaningful improvements
55 including a 2003 provision that urged states to set up systems to
56 combat trafficking for the first time within U.S. borders.

57

58 A growing understanding of the nature of trafficking in
59 persons has led to new innovations in addressing demand.
60 Corporate standards for monitoring supply chains and government
61 policies for eliminating trafficking from procurement practices are
62 making new inroads in the fight against modern slavery. But the
63 fact remains: if there were no demand for commercial sex,
64 trafficking in persons for commercial sexual exploitation would
65 not exist in the form it does today. This reality underscores the
66 need for continued strong efforts to reduce demand for sex
67 trafficking by enacting policies and promoting cultural attitudes
68 that reject the idea of paying for sex.

69

70 President Obama has made the fight to end modern day
71 slavery a priority of his administration. Indeed, he directed the
72 White House Advisory Council on Faith-based and Community
73 Partnerships to focus on ending human trafficking. And, the
74 President created the Interagency Taskforce to Monitor and
75 Combat Human Trafficking to ensure the federal government's
76 response to human trafficking is coordinated and effective as
77 outlined in the report of the President's Advisory Council on Faith

78 based and Neighborhood Partnerships, Building Partnerships to
79 Eradicate Modern-day Slavery.

80

81 **The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that:**

82

83 The Jewish community has a moral and ethical
84 responsibility to combat modern day slavery in the U.S.
85 and around the world and has a strong record of working
86 for a commitment to human rights.

87

88 Comprehensive action is needed to create a grassroots
89 movement within the U.S. at the local, state, and national
90 levels to end modern day slavery.

91

92 Laws, regulations, and enforcement must be strengthened
93 at all levels of government to deter and combat human
94 trafficking; facilitate the rescuing of survivors; and ensure
95 prosecution of perpetrators and users of slaves.

96

97 The Jewish community should lead in working with faith
98 communities, ethnic and community based organizations,
99 health professionals, service providers, educators and other
100 stakeholders to create an abolitionist movement against
101 slavery.

102

103 Large sporting events are associated with an increase in
104 trafficking and therefore efforts and opportunities to deter
105 the demand and educate the community should be
106 heightened in preparation for these events.

107

Lines 81-111 are the start of the actual resolution that will be voted upon.

They are a statement of beliefs and/or a declaration of policy.

108 Businesses and not- for- profit organizations should
109 participate in the fair-trade movement and ensure that
110 policies and protocols are in place so the products we
111 purchase are not made by slave labor.

112

113 **The Jewish community relations field should:**

114

115 Establish and convene a national coalition and statewide
116 coalitions made up of interfaith, inter-ethnic, community
117 based, educational organizations, health providers and
118 others to create an abolitionist movement against modern
119 day slavery. The Coalition would advocate, educate, and
120 share resources to combat human trafficking.

121

122 Advocate for:

123

124 o Implementation of the recommendations of the White
125 House Advisory Council on Faith-based and Community
126 Partnerships

127

128 o Passage and full funding of national legislation to address
129 human trafficking in the U.S. and abroad

130

131 o Encourage Businesses to sign ECPAT-USA's Code of
132 Conduct – the travel and tourism industries child
133 protection code of conduct - and encourage those in the
134 travel and tourism industry to set protocols in place.
135 Encourage businesses across the board to initiate similar
136 code of conducts

137

**The rest of the resolution
is a call for action and/or
recommended actions
that the field should take.**

- 138 o Formation of statewide coalitions where they are not
139 already in place focused on trafficking awareness,
140 education, and advocacy
141
- 142 o Passage and implementation of state and local human
143 trafficking prevention, protection, and treatment laws that
144 provide:
- 145 1. consequences to those benefitting from slaves,
146 including those using the services and the
147 perpetrators; and
 - 148 2. restitution and rehabilitation for survivors.
149
- 150 o Coordination among law enforcement at both the federal
151 and state levels; Attorney Generals to issue directives and
152 train local law enforcement in identifying and responding
153 to human trafficking accusations and in providing support
154 to survivors; and separate trafficking courts in the states
155 with trained judges, attorneys, and law enforcement.
156
- 157 o Local businesses, television stations, law enforcement,
158 educators, and all first responders to publicize the
159 national hotline number.
160
- 161 o Shelters and safe houses in communities for victims of
162 trafficking.
163
- 164 o Education in elementary, middle and high schools to raise
165 awareness about human trafficking.



Resolution on Combating Human Trafficking in the United States

Adopted by the 2014 JCPA Plenum

Human Trafficking is a form of modern day slavery. Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, and/or coercion for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor and, under federal and state law, does not require movement of people across borders.

It is believed there are currently 27 million slaves worldwide. The U.S. State Department estimates that 600,000 to 800,000 people are victims of human trafficking in the U.S. annually, 100,000-300,000 of which are children.

Human trafficking is a hidden crime that is seriously underreported. Within the U.S., both citizens and foreign nationals – women, men, teenagers, and children – can fall prey to traffickers who may threaten their lives and those of their families, isolate victims, and make it impossible for them to escape. According to federal law, human trafficking includes sex and labor trafficking.

- Sex Trafficking – Victims of sex trafficking can be found working in massage parlors, brothels, strip clubs, and escort services. They can be found through the internet and on the street. They are often lured by false promises and ultimately forced into prostitution. Not all of those engaged in sex work are trafficked, but many are.
- Labor Trafficking – Victims of labor trafficking can be found in many types of domestic and non-domestic situations. They work as nannies and maids, in sweatshops, janitorial jobs, restaurants, hair and nail salons, in street sales and on construction sites and farms. The victims are trapped into a cycle of involuntary servitude, debt bondage, and slavery.
- Minors – More than 50% of victims worldwide are estimated to be under the age of 18. Under U.S. law any person under 18 involved in the commercial sex industry is considered a human trafficking victim. Minors are usually the victims of domestic sex trafficking within the U.S. Investigations conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice have revealed that at least 100,000 American children are exploited through prostitution every year. Commercial

sexual exploitation affects females and males of all ethnicities and demographics, especially within vulnerable populations such as those in the foster care system, runaways, and immigrants. Most victims of sex trafficking are female, and the average age at which a minor is trafficked is 13 years old. Children are also found as victims of labor trafficking.

In 2000, the 106th Congress passed the first comprehensive federal law addressing human trafficking – the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) – that required the U.S. Department of State to release an annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report to monitor trafficking globally among other critical measures in the bill. The TVPA has been reauthorized many times, last in 2013, with many meaningful improvements including a 2003 provision that urged states to set up systems to combat trafficking for the first time within U.S. borders.

A growing understanding of the nature of trafficking in persons has led to new innovations in addressing demand. Corporate standards for monitoring supply chains and government policies for eliminating trafficking from procurement practices are making new inroads in the fight against modern slavery. But the fact remains: if there were no demand for commercial sex, trafficking in persons for commercial sexual exploitation would not exist in the form it does today. This reality underscores the need for continued strong efforts to reduce demand for sex trafficking by enacting policies and promoting cultural attitudes that reject the idea of paying for sex.

President Obama has made the fight to end modern day slavery a priority of his administration. Indeed, he directed the White House Advisory Council on Faith-based and Community Partnerships to focus on ending human trafficking. And, the President created the Interagency Taskforce to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking to ensure the federal government's response to human trafficking is coordinated and effective as outlined in the report of the President's Advisory Council on Faith based and Neighborhood Partnerships, Building Partnerships to Eradicate Modern-day Slavery.

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that:

- The Jewish community has a moral and ethical responsibility to combat modern day slavery in the U.S. and around the world and has a strong record of working for a commitment to human rights.
- Comprehensive action is needed to create a grassroots movement within the U.S. at the local, state, and national levels to end modern day slavery.
- Laws, regulations, and enforcement must be strengthened at all levels of government to deter and combat human trafficking; facilitate the rescuing of survivors; and ensure prosecution of perpetrators and users of slaves.
- The Jewish community should lead in working with faith communities, ethnic and community based organizations, health professionals, service providers, educators and other stakeholders to create an abolitionist movement against slavery.
- Large sporting events are associated with an increase in trafficking and therefore efforts and opportunities to deter the demand and educate the community should be heightened in preparation for these events.
- Businesses and not- for- profit organizations should participate in the fair-trade movement and ensure that policies and protocols are in place so the products we purchase are not made by slave labor.

The community relations field should:

- Establish and convene a national coalition and statewide coalitions made up of interfaith, inter-ethnic, community based, educational organizations, health providers and others to create an abolitionist movement against modern day slavery. The Coalition would advocate, educate, and share resources to combat human trafficking.
- Advocate for:
 - Implementation of the recommendations of the White House Advisory Council on Faith-based and Community Partnerships
 - Passage and full funding of national legislation to address human trafficking in the U.S. and abroad
 - Encourage Businesses to sign ECPAT-USA's Code of Conduct – the travel and tourism industries child protection code of conduct - and encourage those in the travel and

tourism industry to set protocols in place. Encourage businesses across the board to initiate similar code of conducts

- Formation of statewide coalitions where they are not already in place focused on trafficking awareness, education, and advocacy.
- Passage and implementation of state and local human trafficking prevention, protection, and treatment laws that provide:
 1. consequences to those benefitting from slaves, including those using the services and the perpetrators; and
 2. restitution and rehabilitation for survivors.
- Coordination among law enforcement at both the federal and state levels; Attorney Generals to issue directives and train local law enforcement in identifying and responding to human trafficking accusations and in providing support to survivors; and separate trafficking courts in the states with trained judges, attorneys, and law enforcement.
- Local businesses, television stations, law enforcement, educators, and all first responders to publicize the national hotline number.
- Shelters and safe houses in communities for victims of trafficking.
- Education in elementary, middle and high schools to raise awareness about human trafficking.

JCRC COMMUNICATIONS

Communications is an important aspect of the JCRC work. As we aim to educate the community and lead it on public policy concerns our motto is to educate, advocate, and activate the community. To do this we need to interest them and inform them on the issue itself and its impact on the community, state and country. Therefore, our communications committee helps with the following:

- Strong Relationship with the Jewish News – the JCRC has an independent relationship with the Jewish news. It pitches stories, engages on strategy on how to educate and inform the community on specific issues, and provides space for op-ed and columns. The JCRC also write editorials from time to time.
- The JCRC ensures its webpage is up to date and reflects news coverage and action alerts.
- The JCRC has a robust Facebook and twitter presence
- The JCRC writes the following:
 - Op-eds
 - Blogs – included in Access Federation and elsewhere
 - Action alerts
 - Columns
 - Letters on issues to the community
 - Flyers
 - Invites
 - Educational materials on priority issues
 - Newsletters
 - Updates
 - Brochures
 - Position Papers

CALL TO ACTION: Dreamers Faith Week of Action

October 30- November 1, 2017

JCPA invites the community relations field to join the national Faith Week of Action in support of Dreamers from October 29 - November 1. We are urging Congress to swiftly pass the Dream Act of 2017 (S. 1615/H.R. 3440) to ensure the nearly 800,000 undocumented immigrant youth impacted by the repeal of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) will be provided with a pathway to citizenship versus be at risk of deportation.



As part of a national campaign with our partners in the Interfaith Immigration Coalition, JCPA is circulating a [sign-on letter](#) for national Jewish organizations and agencies, but it is also extremely important that members of Congress hear from their constituents. We hope you will participate in this campaign by mobilizing at the local level using any or all of the actions below!

What You Can Do

Educate

Educate your community and network on the importance of the Dream Act and encourage them to speak out in support of its passage.

- [JCPA's statement](#) in support of Dreamers and the Dream Act.
- JCPA's [Action Alert and Backgrounder](#) on the Dream Act
- an [op-ed from HIAS](#) in Haaretz.
- **Publish** a letter to the editor or op-ed in your local Jewish paper before the end of October in support of the Dream Act of 2017. *Let us know if you get published by sending a link and the text of your media piece to tgilden@thejcpa.org.*

Advocate

Organize a letter writing campaign, or send a letter or call your legislator in support of the Dream Act to your Congressional delegation and urge your members, friends, colleagues, and network to do the same.

- [Send a letter](#) to your members of Congress
- **Talking Points For Calls to Urge Your Members of Congress to Enact the Dream Act of 2017! Call 1-866-940-2439** Call three times to connect to your one Representative and two Senators.

Sample Script: I'm your constituent from [City, State]. As a person of faith, I support Dreamers. I strongly oppose President's Trump's decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. DACA has provided nearly 800,000 immigrant youth the opportunity to work, raise a family, and pursue their dreams. Congress must do everything in your power to protect immigrant youth - I am calling to urge the [Senator/Representative] to support a clean passage of the Dream Act of 2017 (S.1615 / H.R.3440).



Mobilize

Plan #Faith4Dream events to happen before or during the week of action.

Dream Shabbat - Many communities, including the Reform Action Center, have designated November 3 as a Dream Sabbath. Consider organizing your Shabbat or working with your synagogue to dedicate November 3 to Dreamers. Here are some resources and ideas:

- Reform Movement Immigrant Justice Shabbat, November 3-4, 2017.
- Use the Interfaith Immigration Coalition’s Dream Sabbath toolkit to incorporate Dreamers’ stories and solidarity into your faith-led advocacy, worship services, scripture study, educational events, vigils, and public witness.
- Consider inviting Members of Congress and their staff to attend the events!
- Add the meme below to your signature and print signs here for your event.

Organize a Social Media Campaign - Take over social media with prayers for the passage of the clean Dream Act. Here are some ideas:

1. Download a **#Faith4Dream sign**: PDF or PNG
2. Record a video of yourself holding a printed, filled out one.

Say: My name is _____ and I’m _____ (faith tradition). I am from _____ (city, state). I pray with Dreamers for the Dream Act because _____.

3. Upload your video to **Twitter** with the hashtag **#Faith4Dream** and tag the Interfaith Immigration Coalition (@interfaithimm) and tweet at your members of Congress.
4. Post the video to **Instagram** and **Facebook** with **#Faith4Dream**. Make the post public on Facebook and tag Interfaith Immigration Coalition and your members of Congress!

Track Our Impact Together!

Demonstrate the faith communities’ power around the country by putting your planned event, media piece, or in-district advocacy visit on the map **before Oct 29**: bit.ly/DreamSabbathMap.

Find More Resources At: www.interfaithimmigration.org/dream.

DONATE NOW 

[Jewish Council for Public Affairs jcpainfo@thejcpa.org](http://www.jcpainfo@thejcpa.org) (212) 684-6950

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