



JPAC 2021 Summer Newsletter

Message from the Executive Director

Dear friends:

It is with a deep sense of appreciation and gratitude that, after nearly nine years with JPAC, that I share my plans to leave my role as the Executive Director, effective July 1. It has been a privilege to help ensure that the goals of the Jewish community in California are pursued at the highest levels of our state government. JPAC is a powerful voice in California, and I am so grateful to have had a role in building its influence.

I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to work with and learn from so many dedicated lay leaders, Jewish communal professionals, and legislative staff and elected leaders over the past nine years. And lastly, I want to thank the coalition of organizations who make up JPAC for working tirelessly to effect positive change for the Jewish community and are working to make California the best place to live. May you continue your important work to make a positive impact.

With gratitude,

Julie Zeisler

JPAC Virtual Advocacy Day 2021



The **Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California (JPAC)** held its annual Advocacy Day virtually on May 11th and 12th, bringing more than 200 Jewish community members representing over twenty organizations from across California, to meet with over 70 legislators.

Due to COVID-19, this was the first time that the event was held virtually. JPAC's keynote speaker was California Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis, who spoke to us movingly about her connections to the Jewish community. Our two panel discussions included:

A Common Cause: Confronting the Rise of Hate that featured Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel, and experts from the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee, and the Committee of 100, moderated by Manny Uketiel; and *Building Together: A More Equitable Future* that featured Abby Snay, Deputy Secretary for the Future of Work, California Labor & Workforce Development Agency, and experts from the Western Center on Law and Poverty and Health Access California, moderated by Rabbi Noah Farkas.

Over 150 attendees virtually met with over 60 state representatives to advocate for three legislative packages:

Hate Crimes: AB 57 (Gabriel), which would implement recommendations from the State Auditor to better prevent, respond to, and document hate crimes in California. AB 57 also would strengthen existing requirements for peace officers to undergo comprehensive hate crime training; **AB 557 (Muratsuchi)**, which requires the California Department of Justice (DOJ) to establish and maintain an accessible toll-free hotline number and an online form for reporting hate crimes and hate incidents; **AB 1126 (Bloom)**, which establishes the California Commission on the State of Hate & Violent Extremism within state government; and a **\$50 million** budget ask for the **California Nonprofit Security Grant program**.

Holocaust & Genocide Education: SB 693 (Stern): The Never Again Education Bill; **\$1 Million** budget ask for **Jewish Family and Children's Services (JFCS) Holocaust Library**; **\$2.5 Million** budget ask for the **Holocaust Museum LA's Building Truth Campaign**; and a **\$2 Million** budget ask for **Grants for Teacher Training on Holocaust Education**.

Priority Social Service Initiatives that serve vulnerable youth, seniors and the disabled: SB 224 (Portantino), which requires that students between grades 1 and 12 receive mental health education at school; **AB 470 (Carrillo)**, which eliminates the asset limit test for Medi-Cal programs serving seniors and persons with disabilities; and **SB 364 (Skinner)**, which would make school meals available to every public school student without red-tape or paperwork, and provide meals for students when schools are closed.

Thank you to everyone who joined us!

You can find the recordings of Advocacy Day on our [website](#).

**Save the date for Advocacy Day 2022 in
Sacramento:
May 9-10, 2022**

**JPAC Advocacy Efforts Secure Nearly \$75 Million
in the California State Budget**

As a result of JPAC's advocacy efforts, the legislature included nearly \$60 million in the 2021-22 California State Budget for programs that are critical to our members and our State overall. The budget provisions include:

- **\$50 million for the California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program**, which provides funding for security enhancements at nonprofit institutions—including synagogues, schools, and Jewish community centers—at risk of hate-motivated violence. The program was formally established in 2019 under legislation authored by Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel (D-Woodland Hills) and was championed by the Jewish Caucus in partnership with the LGBTQ and Asian Pacific Islander (API) legislative caucuses. ***JPAC has been lobbying for this funding since 2015 and has been instrumental in securing almost \$100 Million for this program.***
- **\$5.7 million for Jewish Family Service Los Angeles (JFSLA)** to purchase a permanent physical location in Van Nuys to operate a food bank as part of the SOVA Community Food and Resource Program.
- **\$2.5 million to support the expansion of the Holocaust Museum Los Angeles**, which helps to educate tens of thousands of California students every year about the horrors of the Holocaust. Funding will support critical technology and capital improvements and builds on \$6 million that the Jewish Caucus secured for the Museum in the 2019-2020 state budget.
- **\$1 million to support the renovation of the Tauber Holocaust Library** operated by the Jewish Family and Children's Services (JFCS) Holocaust Center in the Bay Area. Funding will protect priceless historical materials and allow them to be preserved in perpetuity, fulfilling the Holocaust Center's mission of remembrance, research, documentation, and education.
- **\$2 million for Grants for Teacher Training on Holocaust Education** to provide professional development and training for teachers across the State to teach students about the Holocaust.
- **\$14.9 million for the Breed Street Shul in Boyle Heights** for preservation and rehabilitation of this historic landmark, as a center of arts, culture, education, and social services bringing together our State's Asian American & Pacific Islander, Jewish, Latino, and other communities, strengthening cross-cultural understanding and advancing social justice.

Thank you to the California Legislative Jewish Caucus for spearheading these important budget asks and ensuring that our efforts were successful!

We are seeking a JPAC Koret Student Intern
for the 2021-2022 School Year!

The image is a promotional graphic for a student intern position. It features a background image of the California State Capitol building. In the top left corner, there is a logo for JPAC (Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California) which includes a stylized flame icon. Overlaid on the center of the image is a dark blue rectangular box containing the text 'wanted:' in a small, italicized font, followed by 'STUDENT INTERN' in large, bold, white capital letters. At the bottom of this box, the website 'JPAC-CAL.ORG' is written in white capital letters.

JPAC JEWISH PUBLIC AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE OF CALIFORNIA

wanted:

**STUDENT
INTERN**

JPAC-CAL.ORG

Civic-minded students invested in the future of California's Jewish Community:
Send in your resumes or inquiries to sarah@jpac-cal.org



www.jpac-cal.org

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