



Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California

2021 Fall Newsletter

Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Hanukkah

To our member organizations, partners, colleagues, and all of our California elected representatives, JPAC wishes you a Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Hanukkah. With these two holidays so close together, may your celebration with family and friends be filled with gratitude and joy!

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic brought tremendous difficulties to our community. Hanukkah is a time to remind ourselves of the light we shine in our world, guiding us toward a brighter future. Despite many obstacles we face in advocating during these challenging times, JPAC will remain resilient, choosing renewed hope and rededicating itself to a purposeful, more promising future.

We are grateful for your commitment to JPAC and our shared mission.

-Allison Gingold, Interim Executive Director of Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California

2021 In Review: Legislative Update

In 2021 JPAC effectively advocated for its legislative agenda, focusing on hate crimes, Holocaust and genocide education, and the expansion of social services for California's most vulnerable residents. Our tireless advocacy efforts paid off. At the conclusion of the California Legislative Session on September 10th, 2021, we could report several significant legislative and budgetary wins.

Here's what you need to know about the **6 bills** signed into law and **\$76.1 million** secured in the state budget that JPAC successfully championed:

6 Bills Passed

[AB 57 \(Gabriel\)](#) implements recommendations from the State Auditor to better prevent, respond to, and document **hate crimes**, while strengthening existing requirements for peace officers to undergo comprehensive hate crime training.

[AB 557 \(Muratsuchi\)](#) requires the California Department of Justice to establish and maintain an accessible toll-free hotline number and an online form for reporting **hate crimes** and hate incidents. Though the bill was temporarily placed on the Senate Inactive file, funding for the hotline was placed in SB 17 and signed into law.

[AB 1126 \(Bloom\)](#) establishes the California Commission on the State of Hate & Violent Extremism, the first statewide commission in California to not only accurately monitor and track **hate crimes** and incidents but to formally recommend policy to the Governor and State Legislature.

[AB 101 \(Medina\)](#) mandates **ethnic studies** in California public high school curricula. Though JPAC has taken no position on the requirement itself, we've worked with our partners to ensure that the state model curriculum is acceptable. JPAC successfully advocated for the addition of critical legal guardrails and protections to AB 101. We will continue to remain actively engaged with the Jewish Caucus to ensure that the teaching of ethnic studies adheres to the highest educational standards, is free of antisemitism and discriminatory bias, and serves to lift up all of California's diverse ethnic communities.

[AB 1243 \(Rubio\)](#) expands language in existing law to prevent domestic violence, including elder and dependent adult abuse, and particularly to preserve the **physical and mental health** of vulnerable Californians.

[SB 224 \(Portantino\)](#) requires all students in California to receive age-appropriate **mental health** education.

\$76.1 Million Secured in the California State Budget

\$50 million for [Nonprofit Security Grants](#)

\$1 million for [San Francisco Jewish Family Services Holocaust Center](#)

\$5.7 million for [Los Angeles Jewish Family Services SOVA acquisition](#)

\$2 million for [Holocaust Education teacher training](#)

\$14.9 million for [Breed Street Shul in downtown Los Angeles](#)

\$2.5 million for [expansion of the Holocaust Museum Los Angeles](#)

Click below to read a comprehensive report on the results of our 2021 legislative advocacy:

[JPAC Comprehensive Legislative Update](#)

Newsom Launches Governor's Council on Holocaust and Genocide Education



Months after the state allocated more than \$13 million to institutions to educate about the Holocaust, California Gov. Gavin Newsom announced the launch of the Governor’s Council on Holocaust and Genocide Education. His office cited “xenophobia, the antisemitism on the rise, the hate [and] the bigotry” as the impetus for its “long overdue” creation.

Governor Newsom announced, “The purpose of this council on the Holocaust and genocide [is] more broadly around education, more sustainable investments, more peer-to-peer, more professional development, more of a systemic investment that will transcend jurisdictions and boundaries — that is where we need to do more.”

The council will include state legislators, civic leaders, and representatives from minority communities. As part of the state’s massive \$196 billion 2021 budget, more than \$13 million was allocated to Holocaust education institutions around the state, including \$10 million to the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, which will fund a new exhibition on antisemitism. State Senator Henry Stern, Attorney General Rob Bonta, and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond will serve as council co-chairs. Also serving are Assemblymembers Adrin Nazarian, Jose Medina, James Ramos and Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, and Senators Scott Wiener, Connie Leyva, and Susan Rubio. Academics, advocates, and community organizations “reflecting the wide diversity of communities impacted by genocide throughout history” will also serve on the council.

JPAC is grateful to those who helped us accomplish our public policy priorities and the members of the Legislature who supported our request for funding.

You can thank our legislators as well for their commitment and efforts to pass this legislation by emailing or tweeting [Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel](#), [Senator Scott Wiener](#), and [Senator Henry Stern](#).

What can 2021 teach us about 2022?

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted 2021's Legislative Session. We saw limitations on the legislative process and a strong policy focus on mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on public health, the workforce, and the economy. Through our influence and advocacy, we not only secured legislative and monetary success, but we partnered with many key stakeholders to ensure that our California leadership timely mandated safety protocols for the successful operation of Jewish summer camps this year. While the pandemic affected every aspect of our community, the state budget was notably not limited by the pandemic, as it saw a \$100-billion-dollar surplus.

In 2021 California saw Governor Newsom handily defeat a recall, the swearing-in as Vice President of our U.S. Senator Kamala Harris, the appointment of Secretary of State Shirley Weber and Attorney General Rob Bonta, and the election of senior state Senator Holly J. Mitchell to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. The musical chairs continued with San Francisco Assemblymember David Chiu, who was appointed San Francisco City Attorney. This appointment opened up his Assembly seat and the Chair of the Assembly Housing Committee. A series of special elections sprung up, followed by the swearing-in of several new members of the Legislature.

2022 is an election year in California, and we may see a significant number of Jewish Caucus Members running for other offices. These changes could potentially mean fewer Jews and fewer Jewish allies in the Legislature. Assemblymember Marc Levine has already announced he is challenging Democratic incumbent Ricardo Lara for Insurance Commissioner.

It is yet unclear how the pandemic will shape 2022's legislative priorities or process. Early fiscal projections are optimistic, forecasting a continuation of budget surpluses into 2022. However, we know for sure that there will be a significant power shift as seats are vacated and filled. JPAC is working to build and strengthen relationships with seasoned and incoming members of the California Legislature to ensure that the voice of California's Jewish community is heard.

Save the Date for JPAC Advocacy Day 2022 IN-PERSON IN SACRAMENTO May 9th through May 10th, 2022

Updates with more information to come. Check out recordings of [Virtual Advocacy Day 2021!](#)



California Assemblyman Jesse Gabriel, chair of the California Legislative Jewish Caucus, speaks in the Sacramento, February 2021. Source: Jewish Caucus via Twitter.

Meet our 2021-2022 JPAC Koret Student Intern: Adam Jackman

Please join us in welcoming Adam Jackman as our 2021- 2022 Koret Foundation Student Intern. Currently, Adam is a junior majoring in political science and history at the University of Southern California. He has had extensive experience interning in both legislative and political capacities, including at California Strategies, U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee, House of Representatives offices of Rep. Young Kim and Rep. Lee Zeldin, and as deputy campaign manager of a New York State Senate race in the 2020 cycle. Adam has been working hard laying groundwork for JPAC's social media and marketing efforts and has built a JPAC Youth Coalition of civically engaged young Californians who are passionate about the nexus between Jewish issues and public policy.



Thank You to JPAC Members

Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles
San Francisco Jewish Community Federation
San Francisco Jewish Community Relations Council
Jewish Family and Children's Services San Francisco
Jewish Family Services Los Angeles
Hadassah Southern California
Jewish Family Services of San Diego
Jewish Federation of San Diego
Jewish Long Beach
Sacramento Jewish Community Relations Council
Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region
Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara
Jewish Silicon Valley

Anti-Defamation League Pacific Southwest
30 Years After
ETTA
Bet Tzedek
Orange County Jewish Federation
American Jewish Committee, San Francisco
American Jewish Committee, Los Angeles
Jewish Center for Justice
JVS SoCal
Jewish Family & Community Services East Bay
Jewish Family Services Silicon Valley
Holocaust Museum Los Angeles
Rhoda Goldman Plaza
And to our esteemed funder:
Koret Foundation



The Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California (JPAC) is the largest single-state coalition of Jewish organizations in the nation. Comprised of local Jewish Federations, Jewish Community Relations Councils, Jewish Family Service agencies, and other Jewish community organizations, we advocate for broadly shared values that affect the citizens of California.

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