JACNEWSbreak ELECTIONS MATTER

Vital News and Research Information for JAC Membership Year-End Review 2014

Presidential Outlook

Janna Berk

This month's Newsbreak takes a look back at 2014 - a difficult year in many ways. Culminating in a mid-term election where JAC lost many long-time friends and staunch supporters of our issues, 2014 seems to be one of those years we'd rather forget. After all, the new make up of the Senate alone virtually guarantees debate and passage of bills on reproductive rights and church-state issues that we've spent years fighting against.

But if forgetting is something you're considering, now is not the time. I ask you to read this issue of the Newsbreak, and remind yourselves of just what we're up against. Talk to your friends, neighbors and relatives and remind them. And then recommit yourselves to standing strong in the face of adversity, because JAC is only as strong as each one of us.

If you need a little inspiration, I ask you to join me in recognizing some of the things that went right this year. JAC's annual Power of Women Luncheon brought in record-breaking contributions. We put on a great D.C. conference. While winning is the name of the game, we must appreciate the benefits of having a seat at the table and being in the national conversation. The importance of in-person advocacy and dialogue with members of Congress cannot be overstated, and your support secures this access to our friends in Washington. Dollars raised through membership renewals and outreach programs allowed us to participate in more races than ever before. JAC sits on the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, and in this capacity, made influential calls in support of Dr. Vivek Murthy's confirmation to the post of Surgeon General. Our action alerts have provided a significant vehicle for change on issues like sexual assault in the military.

Although it's hard to stay positive in light of the many defeats this year, let us all join in a renewed effort to look forward, and to know in our hearts that 2015 holds the promise of better things to come. ❁

ELECTIONS MATTER

✡ Israel & the Middle East

In a year full of challenges and tumult, 2014 showed us the critical importance of a strong U.S.-Israel relationship with a President and Congress deeply committed to Israel's safety and security. The year began with hope as President Obama became the first president to explicitly recognize Israel as a Jewish state in a State of the Union address.

Secretary of State John Kerry began his tenure with a commitment to revitalize the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. Discussing the peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians, Obama said, "American diplomacy is supporting Israelis and Palestinians as they engage in…talks to end the conflict there, to achieve dignity and an independent state for Palestinians and lasting peace and security for the State of Israel as a Jewish state that knows America will always be at their side."

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♀ Reproductive Rights

The most important development in 2014 for women's reproductive choice was the result of the 2014 Midterm Elections, where the anti-abortion forces around the country were strengthened. On the national level, the House became more anti-choice with only 154 pro-choice members of Congress reelected, and the Senate gained an anti-choice majority as the number of pro-choice Senators fell to 37. Anti-choice Republicans now hold two-thirds of the state legislative bodies after winning control of 11 more chambers. They completely control the legislatures in more than half the states. And they gained two more gubernatorial seats, so they will hold 31 next year. These victories will lead to another round of legal restrictions on abortion. (*Politico 11/28/14*)

Looking back on the 113th session, we recognize that 2014 was a noteworthy year

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Separation of Religion & State

"**Separation of church and state**" is a phrase initially used by Thomas Jefferson and, later, others to express an understanding of the intent and function of the Establishment Clause and Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. The phrase has since been repeatedly used by the Supreme Court of the United States.

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution provides that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." and Article VI specifies that "no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States." The phrase "separation of church and state" in this context is generally traced to a

SEPARATION continued on page 4

& Beyond the Core

In alarming news, a Pew Research Center report revealed that our country is more supportive of gun rights than gun control for the first time in two decades. This is a significant shift in public opinion from the outrage felt immediately following the Sandy Hook shootings, when support for gun control was at an all time high (*Pew Research Center 12/10/14*)

At the same time, gun deaths continue to escalate, reaching 11,945 people killed in 2014 as of December 16. (*Gun Violence Archive12/16/14*) Women are at higher risk

BEYOND THE CORE continued on page 4

Go to www.JACPAC.org for more information on JAC's issues.

ISRAEL continued

(JTA 1/28/14) The peace talks abruptly ended without an agreement when Palestinian President Abbas announced a unity agreement with Hamas, the internationally recognized terrorist group. Abbas also refused to recognize Israel as a Jewish state.

The 2014 defense appropriations bill, at the request of President Obama and Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, reaffirmed the strategic and defensive partnership between the U.S. and Israel, and ensured the continued funding for the Iron Dome Missile Defense system. The Iron Dome was put to the test in March when Hamas sent 70 missiles into southern Israel as a prelude to the summer's daily bombardment.

In June, an intense 18-day search for three abducted Israeli teenagers ended when their bodies were found buried in a field in the West Bank. President Obama issued a statement saying that, "as a father, I cannot imagine the indescribable pain that the parents of these teenage boys are experiencing." *(New York Times 6/30/14)* These murders were followed by a summer of violence and Operation Protective Edge. The destruction of Hamas attack tunnels was a stated goal of the operation, and the IDF successfully eliminated 32 concrete tunnels leading from Gaza into Israel. During the war thousands of rockets from Gaza were fired, as 70 Israelis were killed, including 64 soldiers. More than 2,100 people were killed in Gaza in the fighting and many thousands more were wounded.

Congress and President Obama stood by Israel during this time of warfare affirming Israel's right to defend itself against these terrorist attacks. Bipartisan legislation, S.Res. 498, passed giving increased funds for the missile defense package for the Iron Dome and other defense systems at a time when Israel needed it most. The President championed this state of the art technology in 2010 and the system was credited with keeping Israelis safe from the constant rocket fire in the summer of 2014. S.Res. 498 gave $620 million in "support for the State of Israel as it defends itself against unprovoked rocket attacks from the Hamas Terrorist organization." *(JTA 7/16/14)*

In light of the Gaza conflict, the BDS movement (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) picked up steam on college campuses throughout the country and anti-Semitism increased nationally and globally. College students have been confronted with anti-Israel rallies, boycotts, and pressure from groups that oppose the existence of Israel.

Jews around the world, synagogues, grocery stores and other Jewish sites have been increasingly attacked as enemies equate all Jews to Israel. This anti-Semitism has led to the largest migration of French Jews to Israel in 25 years. *(Haaretz 9/7/14)*

European countries, including Sweden, Spain, England and France, have taken legislative votes to recognize Palestine at the UN. This recognition would damage the peace process and could eventually allow the Palestinians to have a state without the formal recognition of Israel.

Throughout the year, the P5+1(Iran and six world powers) engaged with Iran concerning its quest for nuclear weapons and worldwide sanctions. Secretary of State John Kerry recently announced that the negotiations have been extended into mid-2015 after failing to reach an agreement in late November. Analysts said Kerry's comments regarding progress on some of the most "vexing" issues in the Iran nuclear negotiations suggested real progress had been made behind the scenes, but not enough to force an agreement by the November deadline. *(Al-Monitor 11/14)*

The Iranian nuclear issue will continue to be of the utmost concern to Israel as well as Jews around the world. How to best address this issue is an area of legitimate, good-faith discussion.

The end of the year saw passage of the U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 which passed the House and Senate with overwhelmingly bi-partisan support. The landmark legislation deepens U.S.-Israeli cooperation on defense and energy, and expresses "the sense of Congress that Israel is a major strategic partner of the United States." In addition, it authorizes an increase of $200 million in the value of U.S. weapons held in forward stockpiles in Israel, to a total of $1.8 billion. In the event of an emergency, Israel can access the stockpiles as long as it reimburses the U.S. for any weapons used. The bill also expands cooperation on research and development, business, agriculture, water management and academics. (*Times of Israel 12/4/14*)

The U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 declares Israel a strategic partner of the U.S. and passed with overwhelming bi-partisan support.

While the U.S. and Israel continue to discuss the issues of settlements, Israeli-Palestinian peace, Iranian nuclear weapons, and other important issues, the Israeli government is in a state of flux. Prime Minister Netanyahu recently dissolved his government and has called for new elections in March, 2015. *(Times of Israel 12/3/14)* Regardless of the outcome, this administration, the U.S. Congress and the American people will continue to support Israel in a bipartisan fashion and JAC will continue to advocate for a strong US Israel relationship.

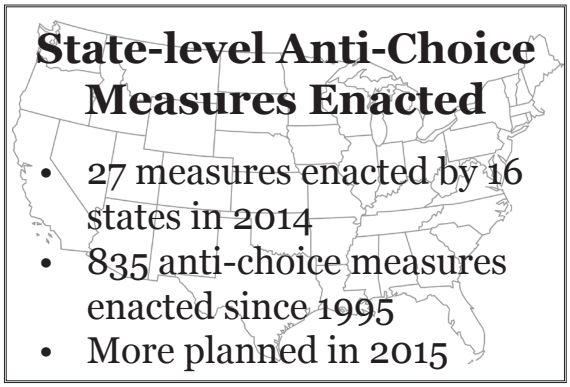
REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS continued

in which Supreme court decisions, House bills and state laws negatively affected women's access to reproductive care. The Supreme Court dealt a huge blow in two separate decisions. In *McCullen v Coakley,* the court ruled against a 35-foot buffer zone around abortion clinics, claiming a violation of the First Amendment's free speech clause. In *Burwell v Hobby Lobby,* SCOTUS ruled that corporations may seek an exemption under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and could be exempt from the ACA's birth control mandate. In her dissent, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg wrote, "by saying that a "closely held' corporation shares the religious rights of its owners…leads American law into a treacherous minefield." (*PFAW.org 6/30/14*)

The House of Representatives passed HR7, The "No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act," prohibiting all insurance plans sold in the health care exchanges from covering abortion, even when using a woman's own funds. The bill would eliminate coverage of abortion even to prevent severe and permanent damage to a woman's health. The bill is sure to come to a vote with the newly-elected anti-choice majority. The House also used appropriation bills to restrict access to choice and coverage for women.

The Senate introduced the "Not my Boss' Business Bill" following the Supreme Court's Hobby Lobby decision, which would have required all for-profit employers to include the full range of contraceptives in their health insurance plans. The Senate fell short of the 60 votes needed to proceed with this bill. (*Huffington Post 7/16/14*) Supporters argued that employers should not be able to decide what health care coverage female employees receive based on their own religious beliefs.

Incoming Majority Leader Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has promised to bring up S1670, introduced by Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC). This companion bill to a previously passed House bill would outlaw all abortions after 20 weeks, even in cases of severe medical complications, fetal anomalies or the health risk to the mother, many of which cannot be detected by ultrasound until the 20th week. (*Huffington Post 11/5/14*)



The attacks on women's reproductive health care on the state level reached dangerous levels in 2014. State legislators enacted laws and restrictions to limit access to abortion or ban it completely. This onerous overreach affected many personal medical decisions for women, and there are several areas of concern. Many of the laws adversely affect lower income women — legislators figuring this population has less political clout. According to the National Women's Law Center, the ability of women to obtain the health care they need has never been at greater risk. States are introducing bans — ranging from 6 to 20 weeks — preventing women from making decisions after devastating fetal testing results. Other laws being enacted by states include: requiring medically unnecessary and invasive ultrasounds, longer mandatory delay requirements, and limiting access to non-surgical/medication abortions. According to the Center for Reproductive Rights, TRAP laws (Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers), single out the medical practices of doctors who provide abortions, and impose on them requirements that are more burdensome than those imposed on other medical practices. These laws include unnecessary admitting privileges for doctors, which leave many clinics without licensed doctors. States are also banning insurance coverage of abortions with no exceptions. Personhood bills, giving rights to fetuses, was on the ballot in a few states in 2014. Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards predicts that 2015 will bring more state legislative attacks on women's health. (*Politico 12/3/2014*)

As we look back, we have to appreciate that the Senate was able to block the anti-choice legislation from the House from coming to a vote. But we will not have that luxury moving forward. We must continue to support pro-choice members and thank them when they take votes and positions that benefit women and their reproductive health. We have to be thankful that President Obama supports *Roe v Wade* and has stood by women in all facets of their lives. We must be vigilant when it comes to judicial appointments at all levels. As a new Congress gets sworn in and we prepare for the 2016 elections, we must continue to fight for a pro-choice agenda. Continue to use JAC as a resource for all questions and concerns. As we all know, elections have consequences.

States that passed anti-choice measures in 2014

Alabama • Alaska • Arizona • Florida • Georgia • Indiana • Kansas • Louisiana • Minnesota • Mississippi • Missouri • Ohio • Oklahoma • South Dakota • Tennessee • Virginia

SEPARATION continued

January 1, 1802 letter by Thomas Jefferson to the Danbury Baptists: "I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should 'make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,' thus building a wall of separation between Church & State."

> *"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion..."*

As clear as the words seem, there is constant conflict between those wanting to bring religion into the public sphere and those fighting against its inclusion. The Jewish community has consistently fought for this First Amendment right and credits its existence with the success and acceptance of Jews in American life.

Unfortunately, this past term of the Supreme Court saw an important shift on religion. In the case *Town of Greece v Galloway*, the Court upheld a New York town's practice of opening meetings with a prayer by a Christian minister, despite complaints of non-Christian residents. The Court ruled that the First Amendment's shield for free speech allows public officials to opt for Christian prayers only. Critics said the decision disregarded the interests of religious minorities and nonbelievers. (*Atlanta Journal-Constitution 5/15/14*) Some say that the decision shows that the Court is moving toward a more tolerant policy of prayer in the government arena and shows a further weakening of the First Amendment's Establishment Clause, which bans government "establishment of religion." (*Wall Street Journal 5/9/14*)

Following that decision, the Court ruled that the religious rights of business owners in *Burwell v Hobby Lobby* exceed the reproductive rights of women. The Court decided that the Hobby Lobby stores qualified as a "person" and that providing the full range of contraceptives put a "substantial burden" on its exercise of religion. In a strongly worded dissent, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg warned "that giving religious exemptions to employers would have a startling breadth." (*LA Times 7/16/14*)

States are a breeding ground for those trying to bring religion into the government and schools. Lawmakers around the country are debating bills that are designed to "put prayer back in schools." (*Americans United 1/22/14*) School boards are fighting about the teaching of evolution in the classroom, arguing that creationism must be taught as well. In dozens of states across the country, the belief is that parents and students should decide if their religion trumps the teaching of science and evolution. Courts need to maintain the division and keep the teaching of theology out of science textbooks and public classrooms.

In a powerful dissent to the *Galloway* decision, Justice Elana Kagan cited a moment in American Jewish history when, in 1790, George Washington corresponded with Moses Seixas, a lay official of the Jewish community of Newport, RI. She noted that in a letter to Washington, Seixas expressed gratitude for an American government "which to bigotry gives no sanction, to persecution no assistance - but generously affords to all liberty of conscience and immunities of citizenship. (*Jewish Exponent 5/8/14*) Let us remember those words as we continue to fight in 2015 for this important bedrock of American law.

BEYOND THE CORE continued

of becoming victims of domestic gun violence when there is a gun in the home. From 2001 through 2012, nearly 6,500 women were murdered in the U.S. by an intimate partner with a gun—more than the total number of U.S. troops killed in action during both Iraq and Afghanistan wars combined. (*Center for American Progress 6/18/14*) For the first time gun violence is expected to claim the lives of more young people in 2015 than car accidents, according to *Bloomberg News*. Each day in our country 90 people are killed by a gun, according to the Violence Policy Center.

In the two years since the mass shooting in Newtown, CT, there have been at least 100 school shootings — an average of nearly one a week. In the last three months alone, there were 17 school shootings including one week which saw five incidents in five separate states. Nearly two-thirds of the shooters obtained their guns from home. (*Everytown USA 12/9/2014*).

Gun violence fills our daily news reports and lockdown drills are part of every school child's

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BEYOND THE CORE continued

routine. Still, the 113th Congress refused to pass comprehensive legislation dealing with this violent epidemic. While Congress did pass an increased funding bill the for the National Instant Criminal Background Check system—enabling the FBI to develop a more comprehensive list of prohibited firearms purchasers—other bills protecting abused women, who are most likely to fall victim to gun violence, stalled in the House and the Senate.

Meanwhile more states are making it easier to carry guns in public places; several states allow guns in bars, restaurants, and churches (*News21 8/16/14*). The Idaho state legislature passed a law allowing concealed weapons on college campuses. In Omaha, NE, the school board unanimously voted to allow guns in senior high school graduation photos, as long as the images are "tasteful". (*Huffington Post 10/22/2014*). Against existing local law, Congress passed legislation allowing residents of our nation's capitol to purchase unlimited number of guns daily without background checks and waiting periods. Washington, DC, now boasts the most permissive gun laws in the nation. (*Roll Call 7/17/2014*)

The summer brought good news from the U.S. Supreme Court. The high court, in a 5-4 decision, upheld the federal ban on gun "straw purchases," when one person buys a gun for someone else. Federal law on background checks requires licensed gun dealers to verify the identity of buyers and submit their names to a federal database to weed out felons, those with a history of mental illness, and others barred from gun ownership. (*NPR 6/16/14*).

Gun Violence in 2014

Total Incidents:	48,855
Number of Deaths[1]:	11,946
Number of Injuries[1]:	21,551
Children (age 0-11) Injured/Killed[1]:	607
Teens (age 12-17) Injured/Killed[1]:	2,216
Mass Shootings[2]:	269
Officer Involved Shootings[2]:	2,983
Home Invasions[2]:	2,394
Defensive Use[2]:	1,486
Accidental Shootings[2]:	1,464

Source: Gun Violence Archive
1: Actual number of deaths and injuries
2: Number of incidents

The 2014 midterms saw great numbers of anti-gun control candidates swept into the House and Senate as a result of large campaign contributions from the NRA. The NRA estimated it spent $35 million on Senate and legislative races around the country. The NRA spent roughly $4 million on ads in Arkansas, Colorado, and North Carolina in September alone. But the group may have met its match with the grassroots organization, Moms Demand Action. *Mother Jones* magazine called them "the NRA's worst nightmare." The group, started shortly after the Newtown shootings, has grown into a national organization with more than 200,000 members and millions of dollars raised. (*MotherJones*).

Gun referendums on the ballots in many states yielded mixed results. Washington State voters approved by 60 percent expanded background checks on all guns sales — including sales at gun shows and on the internet. In Alabama voters passed a bill reaffirming every Alabama citizen's "fundamental right to bear arms," and makes "any restriction on this right...subject to strict scrutiny." (*Huffington Post 11/5/14*)

While legislators fought over gun restrictions, gun control advocacy groups organized successful grass roots campaigns to pressure stores like Target and Panera to adopt no-gun policies in their establishments. Beginning last August with a petition against Starbucks, they are now circulating petitions to push Kroger, the nation's largest grocery chain, to keep guns out of the aisles of their stores. (*MNSBC 9/18/14*).

Just before their December recess, the Senate finally approved the nomination of Dr. Vivek Murthy as U.S. Surgeon General, 51-43. The NRA had been putting pressure on Congress to block this nomination for more than a year because of Murthy's position that gun violence is a public health problem that needs to be addressed. Murthy will be the country's youngest Surgeon General to serve and the highest ranking Indian-American in the Administration.

This past year has proved that we must continue to advocate for common sense gun legislation — on state and national levels. It will save lives.

2014 ELECTION RESULTS

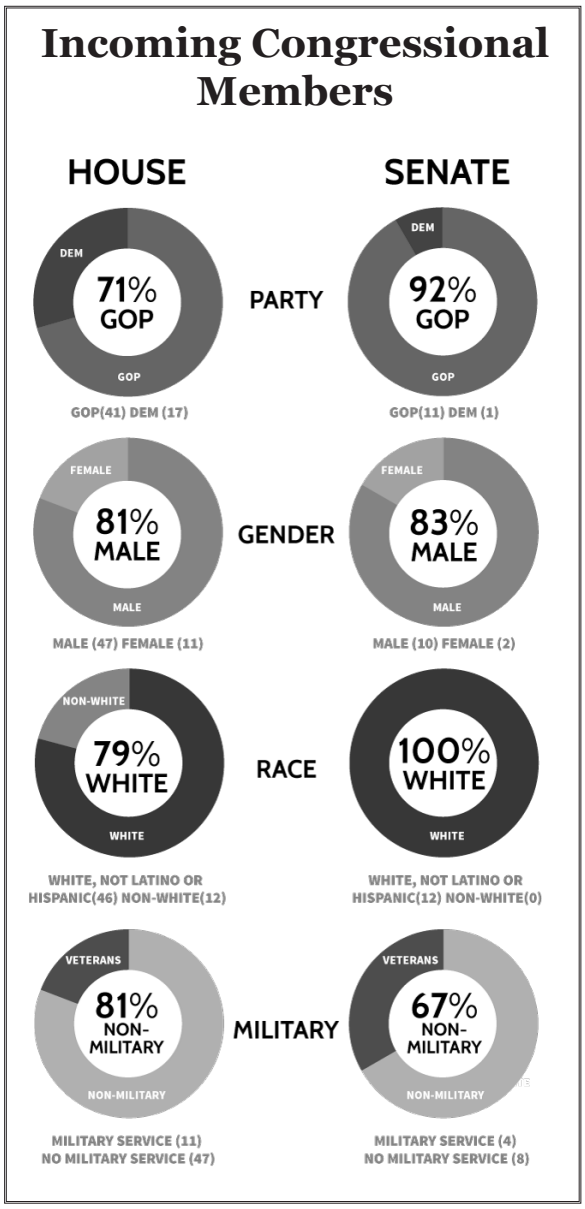
After a grueling 2014 midterm election, the work of the 113th Congress (2013-14) has come to an end. The results were a mixed bag for JAC as many long-time members lost their races. 2015 will offer us a much different Senate and Congress. Perhaps the results were a reflection of a Gallup poll, which found that Congress' approval rating in 2014 averaged just 15%--one point above last year's record-low average.

Election season in the Senate began with several retirement announcements, including Tom Harkin (D-IA), Carl Levin (D-MI) and Max Baucus (D-MT). The election resulted in the losses of many JAC friends. Our one bright spot was the election of Rep. Gary Peters (D-MI) to the U.S. Senate to retain Senator Levin's seat.

JAC was involved in over 50 races across the country. Our members went to fundraisers, canvassed for candidates, and made hundreds of voter turnout phone calls. Your membership dollars helped candidates around the country as election seasons get more costly every year.

The 2014 general election resulted in sweeping gains for Republicans at the federal and state levels. Republicans took control of the U.S. Senate while broadening their existing majority in the U.S. House. There will be more Republican governors than at any point in the past 20 years while 11 legislative chambers flipped for Republicans. (*Ballotopedia 11/7/14*) The median age in the Senate will be 61 with the youngest member, Tom Cotton (R-AR), at 37 years old and the oldest member, Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), at age 81. Perhaps most astounding is how many senators will have served fewer than the six years of a full term at a whopping 47 percent, with the majority of Republican senators having served less than a full term. (*Daily Kos 12/4/14*) According to David Wasserman of the Cook Political Report, 57% of the Democrats in the 114th Congress are women and/or minorities, while 87% of the Republicans are white males. The newly-elected Republican House includes one African American woman and one Jewish man.

Jewish voters continue to overwhelmingly support the Democratic party. Exit polls performed during the midterms show that the Republican Party has gained some ground with Jewish voters, yet, 66% of Jews still voted Democrat. Jews vote on the US-Israel relationship, but they also typically vote for a progressive domestic agenda.



source: PBS Newshour

We congratulate Senators Booker (D-NJ), Collins (R-ME), Coons (D-DE), Durbin (D-IL), Franken (D-MN), Markey (D-MA), Merkley (D-OR), Reed (D-RI), Schatz (D-HI), Shaheen (D-NH), T. Udall (D-NM) and Warner (D-VA) who won hard fought races.

We wish a fond farewell to JAC friends, Senators Pryor (D-AR), Begich (D-AK), Hagan (D-NC), Landrieu (D-LA), Udall (D-CO) and Walsh (D-MO).

On the House side, we are sorry to lose hometown Congressman Brad Schneider (D-IL) as well as Reps. Braley (D-IA), Barber (D-AZ) and Enyart (D-IL). There are some new members who support our issues who we will work to get to know in the following term.

JAC's issues of reproductive rights and separation of religion and state will be under attack with the new House and Senate majorities. Climate and common sense gun legislation will also be areas to be wary. We must stay extra vigilant, read the news, call our Senators and Members of Congress and encourage our friends to stay focused on the issues. Continue to use JAC as your source of information and follow us on Twitter and Facebook. And remember the lesson we learned in 2014 -- elections have consequences.

Senator Mark Pryor (D-AR) was defeated by GOP Rep. Tom Cotton. Although Pryor's choice record was mixed, he could be counted on to support the Democratic leader in the Senate, to vote in support of the U.S.-Israel relationship, and to meet with JAC members when requested. Tom Cotton is 100% anti-choice and will vote negatively on separation issues as well. His votes on Israel should support a strong relationship. He is a Tea Party leader and very smart, with an agenda that we do not support.

Senator Mark Udall (D-CO) was defeated by GOP Rep. Cory Gardner. JAC supported Udall in the House and the Senate. He was an excellent vote on all of JAC's issues. Cory Gardner will likely vote to support Israel-related issues (his voting record on Israel in the House was fine), but he is 100% anti-choice and will also vote negatively on separation issues. He is likely to vote a straight GOP party line, as he did in the House.

Senator Kay Hagan (D-NC) was defeated by GOP state House speaker Thom Tillis, who ran on a strong Tea Party platform —anti-choice, anti-separation, anti-marriage equality, anti-Obamacare, and pro-gun. Tillis helped lead a Conservative revolution to claim control of the North Carolina House that will stay in place for decades to come.

Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), a friend of JAC's for many years in both the House and the Senate, retired after five terms in the Senate. He was replaced by GOP Sen-elect Joni Ernst, who ran on a strong Tea Party platform—anti-choice, anti-separation, anti-marriage equality and pro-gun. Ernst defeated JAC-supported **Rep. Bruce Braley** for this seat, and he will not be returning to the House next session.

In Michigan, JAC has a new friend in the Senate. Dem. **Sen. Carl Levin** chose to retire after six term, the last serving as chair of the powerful Armed Services Committee. He will be replaced by Dem. **Rep. Gary Peters**, a friend of JAC's and a good friend of JAC's Detroit chapter. Peters was an excellent vote on JAC's issues in the House and will continue to be so in the Senate.

JAC, and the people of Louisiana, lost a real friend when Dem. **Sen. Mary Landrieu** was defeated in a run-off election by GOP Rep. Bill Cassidy, another Tea Party favorite. Many Senators, both Democratic and Republican, paid tribute to Senator Landrieu after her December 6th loss, with everyone noting that she was totally committed to the people of Louisiana and always voted to her constituents.

All of the GOP wins have made Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) the new Senate Majority Leader. It is now virtually a sure thing that all the anti-choice legislation that never made it to the Senate floor—thanks to Democratic Majority Leader Harry Reid—will now come up for a vote. McConnell has promised that the 20-week abortion ban, passed last session by the House, will be one of the first votes for the new Senate.

114th Congress

House	Senate
435 Seats	**100 Seats**
188 Democrats	44 Democrats
247 Republicans	54 Republicans
	2 Independents

House Majority Leader: Rep. John Boehner (R-OH)
Senate Majority Leader: Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY)

JAC Happenings Around the U.S. in 2014

A wonderful fly-in to Washington, DC with attendees from around the country.

Successful event in Palm Beach with Rep. Patrick Murphy (D-FL).

Rep. Gary Peters and Donna Crane headlined the Detroit Chapter Meeting.

Rep. Loretta Sanchez spoke to a JAC event in Boca Raton.

Over 400 JAC members, elected officials and guests attended JAC's 4th Annual Power of Women Luncheon in June - a record turnout event!

Talking Points in NYC with Israeli Ambassador Danny Ayalon.

Lonnie Nasatir of the ADL addressed Talking Points HP.

JAC members met with elected officials around the country, delivered JAC support and worked to get out the vote.

JAC members with Rep. Joe Kennedy (D-MA) and Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-IL)

Barbara Koch with Rep. Mark Takai (D-HI)

JAC member Jackie Cohen with Rep. Raul Ruiz (CA-36)

Rep. Ami Bera (D-CA) with Judith Bloom

Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey on Martha's Vineyard with Debroah Gordon Klehr

Elections Matter
We support a strong U.S./Israel relationship, reproductive choice, and separation of religion and state.

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