

JAC NEWSbreak

VITAL NEWS & RESEARCH INFORMATION FOR JAC LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

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On my mind this month...



Gail Yamner

“It is not our job to protect the people from the consequences of their political choices,” wrote Chief Justice John Roberts in

upholding the individual mandate in the Affordable Care Act (ACA). With these words Justice Roberts gave President Obama a victory and, at the same time, signaled that the powers of the Executive and Congressional branches had new limitations. The impact of these limitations on social justice is unclear.

What is clear is that in the next term the President will appoint two or three new Justices. Those Justices will determine the fate of cases on the separation of religion and state as well as abortion and other reproductive issues.

Both concerns are reflected in legal challenges to the contraception coverage in the ACA. The Conference of Catholic Bishops says the law interferes with its religious liberty to prevent those who work in any Catholic institution from receiving contraception coverage. One of these cases may eventually be heard by the Supreme Court. This Court is likely to favor the Church’s view of the First Amendment; what’s more, it may overturn *Roe v. Wade* which would mean states could outlaw abortion, in vitro, stem cell and contraception. This is especially likely in states which already have enacted forced ultrasounds, fetal pain and other draconian laws.

The next President will play a pivotal role in determining the path the country will follow on these issues. Who appoints and who confirms Justices will be in the hands of voters on November 6.

JAC NEWSbreak, for JAC Leadership Circle, is a monthly publication of JAC PAC. Writers: Joy Malkus, Dana Gordon
President: Gail Yamner
Executive Director: Marcia Balonick
Tel (847) 433-5999 Fax (847) 433-6194
Email info@jacpac.org
Web www.jacpac.org © JAC 2012

Israel

In 2011, 139,000 Israelis visited Bulgaria and 8,000 Bulgarian tourists visited Israel. Bulgaria and Israel have announced that they will strengthen strategic cooperation in the areas of tourism and security. A terrorist attack coming out of Iran killed five Israelis and two others on July 18 as they boarded a bus at the Burgas airport soon after their charter flight arrived from Tel Aviv. Israel’s President Shimon Peres responded that Israel will hit terror nests around the world. “We were witnesses to a deadly terror attack... we know there were other attempts, and this time they succeeded... Israel has the means and the will to silence and paralyze terror organizations.” Israeli Minister of Tourism Stas Misezhnikov stated that the terrorists must not be allowed to damage the relations between the two countries. He thanked the Bulgarian Government for the care given to the victims and for the competent investigation of the attack. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pointed to Hezbollah as the party responsible for the attack and US officials identified the suicide bomber as a member of Hezbollah, corroborating Netanyahu’s assertions. Iran gives orders and guidelines to Hezbollah, and the attack was probably in retaliation for the assassinations of Iranian nuclear scientists, for which Iran has blamed Israeli agents. Israel’s security forces airlifted the wounded from Bulgaria and returned them to Israel for treatment.

In May, the International Olympic Committee rejected proposals from the Israeli government and two United States members of Congress, Eliot Engel and Nita Lowey, to hold a moment of silence at this summer’s London Games in memory of the 11 Israeli athletes and coaches who were killed by Palestinian terrorists at the 1972 Olympics in Munich. On July 22, Olympic head Jacques Rogge continued to insist, “The opening ceremony is an atmosphere that isn’t fit to remember such tragic

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United States

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

While running for president, candidate Mitt Romney has said “the repeal of *Roe v. Wade* would be a good day for America.” (MSNBC debate transcript) He has pledged to eliminate Planned Parenthood. (*Think Progress* 3/14/12, *NPR* 4/12/12). He has even vowed to eliminate President Obama’s policy ensuring contraceptive coverage for women without a co-pay, calling it a “violation of conscience.” (*ABC News*, 2/6/12)

Anti-choice members of Congress are not waiting to see if Romney gets elected. They are adding anti-choice legislation to bills on a regular basis. One day after a house subcommittee released a spending bill attacking contraception and other women’s health priorities, another committee approved an anti-choice bill targeting women in Washington, DC. (*NARAL* 7/21/12) The spending bill was introduced by Rep. Denny Rehberg, who is running for US Senate in Montana against JAC-supported Senator Jon Tester. The bill includes the following provisions:

- Would deny birth control coverage for women
- Would increase funding for abstinence-only education (*Huffington Post* 7/17/12)
- Would add new limits on abortion education for physicians
- Would eliminate Title X funding (that provides contraception and cancer screening for low-income women)
- Would repeal the entire Affordable Care Act
- Would defund Planned Parenthood unless it stopped providing abortions (*National Journal* 7/19/12)

HR 3803 would ban abortion in DC at 20 weeks after fertilization, putting health care decisions in the hands of Congress, even in cases of rape or fetal anomaly.

The issue of reproductive rights was not always a partisan one, as the history of Planned Parenthood in Ari-

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Research & Races

WOMEN TO WATCH IN 2012

(bold type indicates JAC support)

The 2012 election cycle features the emergence of new women candidates in both the House and Senate. They are joining several women members seeking re-election and three who are trying to move from House to Senate.

SENATE

Senators **Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)**, **Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)**, **Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)**, **Claire McCaskill (D-MO)**, **Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)** and **Maria Cantwell (D-WA)** all hope to win re-election to the Senate. Feinstein, Klobuchar, Gillibrand and Cantwell are considered safe or likely to retain their seats. Stabenow and McCaskill have more difficult races. Both Michigan and Missouri have high unemployment figures and constituents suffering from the slow economic recovery.

Congresswomen Mazie Hirono (D-HI), **Shelley Berkley (D-NV)** and **Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)** all hold safe House seats, but all three are running for the Senate. Both Hawaii and Wisconsin are open seats. Berkley will face incumbent GOP Sen. Dean Heller. Hirono still faces a crowded primary to win the Democratic nomination.

New women Senate candidates include Dianne Feinstein's opponent, GOP candidate Elizabeth Emken (CA), Democratic candidate Susan Bysiewicz (CT) and GOP candidate Linda McMahon (CT), GOP candidate and former Gov. Linda Lingle (HI), Democratic candidate **Elizabeth Warren (MA)**, GOP candidate and former state Treasurer Sarah Steelman (MO), GOP nominee Deb Fischer (NE), GOP nominee former Congresswoman Heather Wilson (NM) and Dem. nominee former st. Atty. Gen. **Heidi Heitkamp (ND)**.

Connecticut and Hawaii hold primaries in August. (JAC does not provide first-time support in primaries.)

There are currently 16 women Senators. GOP Senators Kay Bailey Hutchison and **Olympia Snowe** are retiring. If the six incumbent Democratic women keep their seats and more than two of the women candidates are successful, that number could increase to 23, although that is unlikely. More likely is that two women will be running against each other in Hawaii and Missouri.

HOUSE

Seventy-six women are currently serving in the House. As mentioned

above, three women House members are running for the Senate. GOP Rep. Jean Schmidt (OH) was defeated in the primary and Reps. Sue Myrick (R-NC) and Lynn Woolsey (D-CA) are retiring. As an example, in Arizona alone there are eight women running in the nine Congressional races with nominees to be chosen in the August 28 primary. Aside from past supported incumbents, JAC is supporting Democrats **Lois Frankel (FL-22)**, **Tammy Duckworth (IL-08)**, **Cheri Bustos (IL-17)**, **Christie Vilsack (IA-04)**, **Dina Titus (NV-01)**, **Shelley Adler (NJ-03)**, **Michelle Lujan Grisham (NM-01)** and **Kathy Boockvar (PA-08)**. Frankel, Titus and Grisham are running for Open seats; the others are challenging Republican members, all of whom are anti-choice and anti-separation of religion and state.

This 112th Congress has fewer women than the preceding Congress. If the majority of women candidates are successful in November, female representation will be higher in the next Congress. JAC could be involved in more races following late August and September primaries.

For more information on campaigns and elections or to contribute to candidates, visit the JAC website at www.jacpac.org

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zona shows. In the 1930s, that chapter was co-founded by Peggy Goldwater, wife of ultraconservative Barry Goldwater. Before *Roe v. Wade* made abortion legal, she had to take her own daughter for an abortion in a back room where the procedure was done on a table. Goldwater's granddaughter Joanne, has continued the family pro-choice tradition, saying, "to see the funding be taken away— it's just ignorance. (*Reuters* 7/12/12) Arizona also recently passed legislation banning

abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy. Before 2010 efforts to defund Planned Parenthood and family planning were doomed to fail. But that changed when anti-abortion Republicans swept into office on federal and state levels.

Evangelical pastors in Kansas plan to build a replica of the Western Wall as part of an anti-abortion shrine. (*Times of Israel* 7/12) They view the Wall as "the embodiment of remembering Jewish suffering during the Holocaust"

and now plan to use the their wall to memorialize some 60 million aborted fetuses. The Kansas model will be a full sized replica with white crosses across the front. The ADL called the proposed center a perversion of Judaism's holiest site. "Over the years we have seen a number of anti-abortion groups compare abortion to the Holocaust, but this takes the misuse of Jewish symbolism and history to another level," said Abraham Foxman, ADL's national director.

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events." Instead Rogge paid tribute to them at a ceremony in the athletes' village. He began the ceremony by saying, "Israelis came to Munich in the spirit of peace and solidarity... we owe it to them to keep that spirit alive and to remember them." President Obama "absolutely supports the campaign for a minute of silence at the Olympics to honor the Israeli athletes killed in Munich." Also on Monday, GOP Presidential candidate Mitt Romney broke

his own silence on the issue, which he maintained during his time as head of the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics in 2002, the 30th anniversary of Munich. He now favors the moment of silence. NBC Sportscaster Bob Costas intends to call out the IOC and hold a moment of silence as the Israeli delegation enters the Olympic Stadium for the Opening Ceremony. "I intend to note that the IOC denied the request... here's a minute of silence right now."

The Guardian (7/24/12) reported that at a high level meeting in Brussels the European Union pledged to offer Israel upgraded trade and diplomatic relations. The EU will allow expanded access to markets and enhance Israel's co-operation with nine EU agencies, including Europol and the European Space agency. This upgrade in status stops just short of the promised upgrade that was withdrawn after Israel's invasion of the Gaza Strip in 2009.