## HOW TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

 IN CONGRESSAs you read this guide, take note of how your senators and representative voted on issues that matter to you. Contact them regularly and let them know where you stand. Your message may be as simple as the samples below:

## ddresses:

The Honorable
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
The Honorable
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

## sample letter/e-mail.

Dear Senator/Rep.
I am writing to ask you to support/vote agains
(issue, bill \#, if you know it)
This issue is important and deserves your attention. sincerely,
Your name, address
Phone: Capitol Switchboard (202) 224-3121 ample phone call:
"Hello. My name is
and I am
a conssituent. I would like to register my opinion on the issue of
I am in favor of/opposed to it. Please pass this information
along to Senator /Rep.
Thank you."
E-mail: www.congress.org provides access to all elected official. To contact your senators and representative, just enter your zip code.

Please take the time to communicate with your elected official after a vote has taken place. Thanking them for favorable votes is as important as expressing disapproval for unfavorable ones.

Calls, mail and faxes are tallied.
They do make a difference.
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The Jewish Community Voter Guide is published by the JAC Education Foundation, P. O. Box 541, Highland Park, Illinois 60035. For more information, call (847) 433-0944. Contributions to the JAC Education foundation are tax deductible for federal income tax purposes as a Conation to an organization exempt under IRS code $501(())(3)$

## ABOUT THIS VOTER GUIDE

This is Volume IX, Number 4 of the Jewish Community Voter Guid published twice a year by the JAC Education Foundation. The Voter Guide is for informational purposes only and is not intended to influence the outcome of any election.

The JAC Education Foundation does not adrocate the election or defeat of any candidate and does not endorse any political party The information in this Voter Guide is provided as a resource to help you understand the issues before the 112 th Congress, to communicate your opinions to elected officials on these issues, and to make you an informed participant in the political process.
about the jac education foundation The JAC Education Foundation was formed to educate and engage the Jewish community in electoral politics and issues of Jewish concern. The Jewish community is no longer immune to the apathy and ignorance that affect the nation as a whole. We cannot take elections for granted: we must educate ourselves, register and vote, and urge others to do the same.

The JAC Eduction Foundation seeks to increase political involvement through knowledge of:

- how to be an effective advocate
- which legislative issues are important
- what Congressional action has been taken

ABOUT THE CONGRESSIONAL INDEX
This is a record of how each member of the United States Congress voted on issues of concern to American Jewry as identified by the JAC Education Foundation in consultation with recognized authorities who monitor these issues. Read the vote descrip. tions. Examine the Congressional index to learn how members of Congress voted. These votes indicate where members of Congress stand on key issues.


## DESCRIPTION OF HOUSE VOTE

. HR 6079 Repeal of Health Care Overhaul/Passage. Passage of the bill that would repeal the 2010 health care overhaul law, which requires most individuals to buy health insurance by 2014; makes changes to government health care programs and sets new requirements for health insurers. Passed 244-185; July II, 2012. Placed on Senate Calendar; never brought to Senate Floor.
2. HR 3803 D.C. Abortion Ban/Passage. Franks (R-AZ) motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would prohibit abortions in the District of Columbia after 20 weeks of pregnancy, except when the woman's life is endangered. Motion rejected 220 - 154 ; a $2 / 3$ majority of those present and voting ( 250 in this case) is required for passage under suspension of the rules. July 31, 2012.
3. HR 1905 Iran and Syria Sanctions/Adoption. Consensus measure neggoiated - the measure would expand the list of activities
that could trigger sanctions against third parties doing business with that could trigger sanctions against third parties doing business with
Iran. Sanctionable activities would include providing insurance for vessels that ship Iranian oil, purchasing lranian debt and supporting Iranian port-acility construction and management. Motion agreed to 421-6; a $2 / 3$ majority of those present and voting ( 285 in this case) is required for adoption under suspension of the rules. August 1,2012 . Senate
deaare by voice vote. Became pubbic law Ausust 10,2012 .
4. HR 3783 Iran Policy/Passage. Ros-Lehtinen (R-LL) - motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill strategy to counter Iran's presence in the Western Hemisphere and would direct the Secretary of State to assess the threats posed by Iran and submit to Congress a strategy to counter Iran's increased activity Motion agreed to $386-6 ;$ a $2 / 3$ majority of those present and voting rules, December 18, 2012. Became public law December 28, 2012
5. Hr 4310 Fiscal 2013 Defense Authorization Conference Report. Adoption of the conference report on the bill that would authorize $\$ 648.7$ billion for defense programs in fiscal 2013 , including $\$ 85.5$ billion for overseas military operations. It would authorize the use of Defense Department funds for abortion for military personnel in cases of rape or incest. The measure would block the use of Defense Department funds for I year to transfer or release prisoners at the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba DI-107 December
into the U.S. or its teritories/possessions. Adopted 35-107; 20, 2012. Became public law January 2, 2013.
6. HR 8 Tax Rates Extensions/Motion to Concur. Cam (R-MI) motion to concur in the Senate amendments to the bill that permanently would extend the 2001 and 2003 tax rates for individ ual income below $\$ 400,000$ and joint-file income below $\$ 450,000$. $39.6 \%$. It also permanently would extend the tax rates on dividends and capital gains for individuals' income below $\$ 400,000$ and joint-filer income below $\$ 450,000$. Rates for the dividends and capital gains taxes would rise to $20 \%$ for income above those thresholds. The measure would delay the automatic, across-the-board cuts know as sequester for 2 months. The measure also would tax individual estates valued at more than $\$ 5$ million and joint estates valued at
more than $\$ 10$ million at $40 \%$. It permanently would "patch" the Alternative Minimum Tax to account for inflation. Unemployment insurance would be extended through 2013. Motion agreed to 257167; January I, 2013. Became public law January I, 2013.

| Pennsylvania |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Casey <br> Toomey | $\gamma$ | Y | ץ | Y | $\gamma$ | Y | Y | Y |
|  | N | N | N | y | N | Y | N | y |
| Rhode Island |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Reed | Y | Y | r | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Whitehouse | Y | Y | r | Y | r | Y | Y | Y |
| South Carolina |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DeMint | $N$ | N | N | Y | N | NV | NV | NV |
| Grabam | $N$ | $N$ | N | Y | $N$ | r | N | r |
| Sоитн Dакота |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Johnson | Y | $\gamma$ | Y | r | $\gamma$ | Y | $\gamma$ | Y |
| Thune | N | N | $N$ | y | N | r | N | y |
| Tennessee |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Alexander | N | N | N | NV | N | r | N | r |
| Corker | $N$ | $N$ | $N$ | Y | $N$ | Y | $N$ | Y |
| Texas |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Corryn | $N$ | N | N | Y | $N$ | Y | N | Y |
| Hutchison | N | N | $N$ | $y$ | $N$ | Y | $\gamma$ | Y |
| Uтан |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hatch | $N$ | N | N | NV | N | $\gamma$ | $N$ | Y |
| Lee | $N$ | N | N | $y$ | N | N | N | N |
| Vermont |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Leahy | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| Sanders | r | Y | $\gamma$ | Y | $\gamma$ | $N$ | Y | Y |
| Virgina |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Warner | Y | Y | Y | Y | r | Y | NV | Y |
| Webb | $\gamma$ | N | $\gamma$ | y | $\gamma$ | y | y | Y |
| Washingon |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cantwell | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | $\gamma$ | Y |  |
| Murray | Y | Y | Y | $y$ | $\gamma$ | Y | Y | Y |
| WESt Virgina |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Manchin | r | Y | ץ | Y | Y | r | Y | Y |
| Rockefeller | r | r | Y | NV | r | y | Y | r |
| Wisconsin |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jobnson | N | N | N | Y | N | r | N | r |
| Kohl | v | Y | $\gamma$ | $y$ | $\gamma$ | Y | $\gamma$ | $r$ |
| Wroming |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Barrasso | $N$ | N | N | Y | $\gamma$ | N | N | , |
| Enzi | N | N | N | y | N | N | N | , |

DESCRIPTION OF SENATE VOTES

1. $\begin{array}{r}\text { Motis } \\ 369 \text { Campaign Financial Disclosures/Cloture. }\end{array}$ motion to proceed to the bill that would reaquire crouss and companis motion to proceed to the bill that would require groups and companies
to disclose independent campaign expenditures and donations to independent groups over $\$ 10,000$. Motion rejected $53-45 ; \mathrm{A} 3 / 5$ majority vote the total Senate (60) is required to invoke cloture. July 17,2012
2. S 3412 Tax Rates Extensions/Passage. Passage of the bill that would extend the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts for one year on
taxable income of up to $\$ 200,000$ for single filers or up to $\$ 250,000$ for joint filers. The bill would set the tax rate for adjusted gross income above $\$ 250,000$ at $36 \%$ and for adjusted gross income above $\$ 400,000$ at $39.6 \%$. It also would expand the child tax credit and extend the college tuition tax credit and the earned-income tax credit. It would
set tax rates for long-term capital gains and dividends at $20 \%$. The bill also would allow a business property deduction of up to $\$ 250,000$ and extend the alternative minimum tax provisions for 2012 income. Passed $51-48$; July 25,2012 . HR 8 became public law January I, 2013. 3. S 3457 Veterans Jobs Training/Motion to Waive. Reid (D-NV) motion to waive all applicable budget laws that would require states to issue certain licenses for trade jobs such as plumbing or truck driving to veterans without requiring triaining or apprenticestips if the
veterans pass examinations and have at least 10 years of experience in
 of the total Senate (60) is required to waive the applicable budget laws September $19,2012$.
3. 53254 Fiscal 2013 Defense Authorization/lran Sanctions. Menendez (D-N) amendment that would bar all transactions with lran's energy, shipping and shipbuilding sectors and its ports. It would ban the sale to Iran of certain metals, including graphite, lu-
minum, stee and minum, stel and metallurgial coal, which are used in those sectors
in other industrial processes. Adopted $94-0$; November 30,2012 .
4. Treaty Doc 112-7 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities/Adoption. Adoption of the resOlution of ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with
Disabilities (Treaty Dof the treatment of people with disabilities. The resolution would state that current U.S. Law fuffills or exceeds the obligations of the treaty. Rejected 61-38: A $2 / 3$ majority of those present and voting. (66) is required for
adoption of resolutions of ratificaion. December 4,2012 .
5. HR 4310 Fiscal 2013 Defense Authorization Conference Report. Adoption of the conference report on the
bill that would authoriz $\$ 648.7$ billion for defense programs in fiscal 2013 induduing $\$ 85.5$ billion for overseas military operations. It would authorize the use of Defense Department funds for abortion for militry personnel in cases of rape or incest. The measure would block the use
of Defense Department funds for I year to transfer or release prisoners at the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba Dentention Center into the U.S. or its territories/possessions. Adopted 81-14; December 21, 2012. Became Public Law January 2, 2013.

HR Hurricane Supplemental/Passage. Passage of the bill that would provide $\$ 60.4$ billion in emergency spending for com-
munities hit by Hurricane Sandy, incududing an additional $\$ 9.7$ billion munities hit by Hurricane Sandy, including an additional $\$ 9.7$ billion in borrowing authority for the National Flood Insurance Program, $\$ 13$
billion for mititgation projects, $\$ 11.5$ billion for the Federal Emergency billion for mitigation proiects, $\$ 11.5$ billion for the Federal Emergenc
Management Agency's Disaster Reief fund and $\$ 10.8$ billion to the Federal Transit Administration to rebuild public transit systems. As amended, the bill would provide $\$ 17$ billion for the Community Development Fund. Passed 62-32; December 28, 2012. Message on Senate action sent to the House. 8. HR 8 Tax Rates Extensions/Passage. Passage of the bil
that would permanently extend the 2001 and 2003 tax rates for indi-
vidual income below $\$ 00,000$ and jiont-fier income below $\$ 450,000$ vidual income below $\$ 400,000$ and joint-file income below $\$ 450,000$.
Rates for income above those thresholds would rise to $39.6 \%$ from Rates for income above those thresholds would rise to $39.6 \%$ from
$35 \%$ It also would permanently extend the tax rates on dividends and capital gains for individual income below $\$ 400,000$ and joint-filer income below $\$ 450,000$. Rates for the dividends and capital gains taxes woul rise to to $20 \%$ for income above thoses thresholds. The measure would
delay the delay the automatic, across-the-board cuts known as "sequester" for two moinths. Ind aso would tax indivicual estates valued at more than $\$ 5$
milion and joint estates valued at more than $\$ 10$ million at $40 \%$. It would permanently "patct" the Alternative Minimum Tax to account for inflation. Unemployment insurance would be extended through 2013. The bill would block scheduled cuts to Medicare physician payment rates and extend for five years tax credits included in the 2009 stimulus law allow the $2 \%$ payroll tax holiday to expire. Passed $89-8$; january 1,2013 (bession began on December 31, 2012 ).

|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Alabama |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sessions | N | N | $N$ | Y | N | Y | N | Y |
| Shelly | NV | $N$ | N | $\gamma$ | N | $\gamma$ | $\gamma$ | N |
| Alaska |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Begich | Y | Y | Y | Y | r | Y | Y | Y |
| Murkenski | N | $N$ | Y | $y$ | $\gamma$ | Y | $\gamma$ | r |
| Arizona |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Kyl | $N$ | N | $N$ | Y | N | Y | $N$ | Y |
| MoCain | $N$ | N | N | r | $\gamma$ | Y | $N$ | r |
| Arkansas |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Boozman | $N$ | N | N | r | $N$ | Y | $N$ | Y |
| Pryor | Y | Y | Y | r | Y | Y | r | Y |
| Californa |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Boxer | Y | Y | Y | Y | r | $\gamma$ | NV | Y |
| Feinstein | Y | Y | Y | y | Y | Y | $\gamma$ | Y |
| Colorado |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bennet | Y | Y | r | Y | Y | Y | Y | N |
| Udall | Y | $\gamma$ | Y | y | Y | $\gamma$ | r | $\gamma$ |
| Connecticut |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Blumenthal | , | $\gamma$ | Y | Y | Y | $\gamma$ | r | Y |
| Lieberman | r | N | Y | y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Delaware |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Carper | r | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | r | N |
| Coons | Y | Y | Y | y | $\gamma$ | $\gamma$ | Y | Y |




