



JAC's 2022 Year-End Report

We entered 2022 focused on supporting and electing candidates that share JAC's values. Everything we cared about was at stake. JAC tirelessly worked to ensure that there was not a red wave. Anti-choice and election denier candidates lost across the country.

JAC had a very successful cycle thanks to you. We raised a record amount of money and were able to be in 81 races in 27 states across the country. Together we wrote postcards, knocked on doors, and made phone calls to help get the vote out for our candidates. JAC's efforts helped place the Democrats in control of the Senate. We also helped send several new candidates to Washington from Rhode Island, Ohio, Colorado, and North Carolina.

Finally after three years of virtual events, JAC was able to hold its 2022 annual Power of Women luncheon in person. Cecile Richards, former CEO of Planned Parenthood, was our guest speaker. Everyone at the luncheon was anxious in light of the impending SCOTUS decision on Roe v Wade. Our worst fears were realized only four days later when the conservative court overturned Roe.



Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ) with Betsy & Richard Sheerr



Allison Shaewitz with Speaker Nancy Pelosi

This galvanized more young women to become involved in JAC. Interest increased even more following the Highland Park July 4th parade shooting. Many new members flocked to JAC because of our record of advocacy on this issue and JAC's relationship with Members of Congress.

We were able to have a sold-out fundraiser to raise money for JAC's common sense gun safety candidates in October. The evening featured entertainment from JAC member and co-chair Lara Chaimson's husband's renowned band, The Gold Coast Allstars.

JAC said farewell to many friends in Congress this year who have been strong advocates for JAC's issues. Many of them retired, such as Reps. Ann Kirkpatrick (D-AZ), Cheri Bustos (D-IL), Ted Deutch (D-FL), and Jackie Speier (D-CA) and Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT). We wish them luck in their new endeavors.



Jacki Parmacek and Marcia Balonick with Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL) at the White House Hanukkah party.

Over the years, JAC has been honored to meet with Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA). She was a featured guest at a JAC luncheon and we enjoyed the time with her when we saw her on the campaign trail for our candidates. Her leadership and passion will be missed in the Speaker's chair. JAC looks forward to our continued work with her on the many challenges facing our country.



JAC Executive Director with JAC member Rep. Kathy Manning (D-NC) at the White House Hanukkah Party

Several JAC-supported candidates played integral roles on the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack. Rep. Elaine Luria (D-VA), who JAC met with several times this year, led the televised hearings. Her deep devotion to truth, justice and our country ultimately cost her reelection. We hope she will continue her service to our country.

Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) also played a central role on the Committee. JAC had the unique opportunity to meet with Schiff, who shared with us his experiences and insights serving on the Committee.

JAC ended the year by attending the White House Hanukkah party. It was good to be back at the White House seeing new and old friends. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful decorations and delicious latkes.

Thank you for all that you do for JAC. We asked a lot from you this year and you delivered. Please continue to stay involved with JAC and encourage your friends and family to do the same. Elections have consequences.

Happy New Year.



U.S.-Israel Relationship

This fall saw the fifth election in nearly four years in Israel. Lawmakers have been unable to form a stable coalition to govern since 2019.

This election brings back former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. In order to secure the needed seats to form a coalition government, he has included extreme far-right wing lawmakers in his camp. This has caused concern among many regarding the potential impact and future of the U.S.-Israel relationship and the peace process.

However, Secretary of State Antony Blinken stressed that the U.S. commitment to Israel's security remains 'ironclad' and that America respects the 'democratic choice of the Israeli people.'



JAC leadership with President Biden in October

Israel continued to deepen its ties to Arab states. It signed an historic agreement with Egypt and the European Union to export its natural gas allowing them to be less reliant on Russian oil.

The U.S. and Israeli air forces conducted one of the largest joint drills simulating offensive strikes against Iran's nuclear program to deter the continued threat from Iran.

During his 10th visit to Israel, President Biden was presented with the country's Presidential Medal of Honor, the highest civilian honor, by Israeli President Isaac Herzog. Biden was recognized for his 50 years of support for Israel.

Antisemitism & BDS

There has been a 34 percent rise in antisemitism since last year, averaging out to more than seven antisemitic incidents per day in the U.S. Overall hate crimes have surged to levels not seen for almost two decades. Experts say this number may be higher because thousands of police departments failed to report their data.

The BDS movement, which is blatantly antisemitic, has grown on college campuses across the country - but adults seem to be unaware of the problem. A Pew Research Center survey found that nearly 85 percent of adults surveyed have heard 'not much' or 'nothing at all' about the movement.

Social media continues to be a breeding ground for antisemitism. There is a greater concern now that Elon Musk has taken over Twitter. Since his takeover, tweets with the most engagement were overtly antisemitic.

A California District Attorney deactivated his office's official Twitter account because of an 'explosion of hate speech.' He is asking all elected District Attorneys through the U.S. to do the same.

The White House has made combating antisemitism a top priority. Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff convened a round table discussion on the problem, while Biden has formed an inter-agency task force to develop a national strategy to combat antisemitism.

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Reproductive Rights

This year will be remembered as a dark moment for women in the United States. Almost 50 years since the Supreme Court determined women had the right to make their own health care decisions and that abortion was legal, we lost that right to a new extremist Court. The 2022 SCOTUS ruling to overturn *Roe v. Wade* struck at the heart of our liberties and freedom — not just for women, but for everyone in this country.



Abortion rights advocate Cecile Richards headlined the 2022 JAC Power of Women Luncheon

Until Congress can codify *Roe*, states now have the authority to enact their own restrictive and punitive laws. Thirteen states immediately made abortion illegal as soon as the SCOTUS hearing was handed down. Other states have made accessing care nearly impossible.

In Oklahoma, abortion became a felony subject to up to 10 years in prison. Texas, which has been leading the country in extreme laws, enacted a whistleblower-type law where an individual can sue anyone who "aids or abets" an abortion and receive a \$10,000 reward. This can even be a taxi driver who transports a woman to the clinic for an abortion.

With *Roe* overturned, we will see fewer doctors trained to perform abortions and related procedures. According to medical experts, this will affect other forms of medical training including miscarriage management, sexual and domestic assault treatment, counseling patients, and emergency care.



JAC members protesting the SCOTUS decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*.



2022 Power of Women Luncheon

Biden signed two executive orders to help women access reproductive health care in light of the SCOTUS ruling. He directed HHS to "take action" to protect access to medication for abortion and update guidance to ensure that emergency care is not affected by abortion restrictions. His other order directs HHS to find ways to expand coverage for patients traveling out of state for reproductive healthcare.

The antichoice movement now wants to go after medication abortions, which account for more than half of all abortions. Nearly five million people nationwide have used mifepristone in the last 20 years.

A group of Senators wrote a letter to the FDA Commissioner encouraging the agency to defend Americans' reproductive rights, and to consider steps to protect and expand access to medication abortion.

There was some good news. Kansas, Kentucky, and Montana voters defeated anti-choice ballot initiatives in November.

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Separation of Religion & State

The Christian-right and Evangelicals are exerting a growing and alarming amount of influence in our country. They have joined forces with local officials to remove books from schools and public libraries. In one Florida county, at least 102 books have been removed from the shelves of school libraries.

A far-right, Christian cellphone company 'took over' four Texas school boards when they found 11 candidates to support. They all won. By fielding candidates and taking control of these boards, they are using their religious views to influence education and public policy.

Forty-five percent of American adults believe the United States should be a "Christian nation," according to the results of a survey by the Pew Research Group. These results threaten religious freedom for all groups as the wall between religion and state erodes.

GOP lawmakers have been pushing waves of bills targeting the LGBTQ+ community. More than 200 bills have been filed this year to limit protections for LGBTQ+ Americans. Florida's "Parental Rights in Education" bill ("don't say gay") banned classroom instruction about sexual orientation or gender identity. A recent law in Texas classifies medical treatments for transgender adolescents as "child abuse" sends the same discriminatory message.

House Republicans have introduced legislation that mimics the Florida bill. But the GOP bill actually goes further. This bill would impact schools and public events and literature at any federally-funded institution.

SCOTUS is getting closer to permitting prayer in school. This year they ruled in favor of allowing a high school football coach to pray on the field after games. Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote that this decision does a disservice "to our Nation's longstanding commitment to the separation of church and state."



Marcia Balonick with Rabbi David Saperstein, former U.S. Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, and Ellen Weiss at the White House Hanukkah party.

Gun Violence Prevention

In June, President Biden signed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA). JAC was later at a White House event to celebrate the passage of this landmark gun violence prevention bill.

The BSCA contains many provisions to address the nation's gun violence crises including strengthening background checks. But the act did not ban assault weapons.

Nine days later in Highland Park, IL, steps from JAC's office, a mass shooter killed seven and wounded 48 with an assault weapon at the village's annual July 4th parade. Many of our local members were at the parade with their families and one was even seriously wounded. This horrific event renewed JAC's commitment to fight even harder to end gun violence.



Stacy Rudd with Rep. Lauren Underwood (D-IL) at the White House celebrating the passage of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act

JAC was able to quickly mobilize, rally, and call Members of Congress demanding a ban on assault weapons, the weapon of choice for mass shooters. We held several events with leading Members of Congress, including Reps. Brad Schneider (D-IL) and Robin Kelly (D-IL), to discuss ways to address this issue.



JAC members with Illinois Reps. Robin Kelly & Brad Schneider discussing ways to stop gun violence.

The House passed Rep. David Cicilline's (D-RI) assault weapons ban at the end of July. This was the first vote on the measure in nearly 30 years. The bill now sits in the Senate. In the meantime not a single week has passed without at least four mass shootings.

This December was the 10th anniversary of the Sandy Hook School shooting. Earlier in the year, families of the victims settled a lawsuit with Remington, the maker of the gun used in the school shooting.



A sold-out event to raise money for gun sense candidates co-hosted by HP Strong

Under a law signed by President Bush, gun manufacturers are exempt from liability and accountability in court. This case worked around that law to award the largest amount of damages to date and will hopefully set a precedent for future cases.



JAC members showed up for a gun violence prevention rally in Highland Park, Illinois

Climate Change

President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act is the most significant piece of climate action policy to date in the U.S. The Act includes \$369 billion to bring America closer to Biden's goal of cutting climate pollution in half from 2005 levels by 2030.

There will also be aid for communities to safeguard against climate-related disasters, which last year caused more than \$145 billion in damages.

The EPA restored an Obama-era rule to limit power plant emissions of mercury and other hazardous pollutants. These toxins cause cancer risks and neuro-developmental delays in children.

On the world stage, the U.S. returned to being a leader in fighting climate change. At the 27th UN Climate Conference, Biden announced that the U.S. would increase its commitment to \$100 million to the Adaptation Fund, which finances projects and programs that help vulnerable communities in developing countries adapt to climate change.

Global climate change is forcing wild animals to relocate to more populated areas. As different mammals encounter one another for the first time, they will share thousands of viruses that can be transmitted to humans and cause the next pandemic, according to a new study.

This year, again, we saw extreme heat across the country. Heat kills more Americans than any other weather-related disaster. These deaths have outpaced hurricane deaths by more than 15-to-1 over the past decade.



Hollis Wein with
Rep. Sean Casten (D-IL)

Judges & the Courts

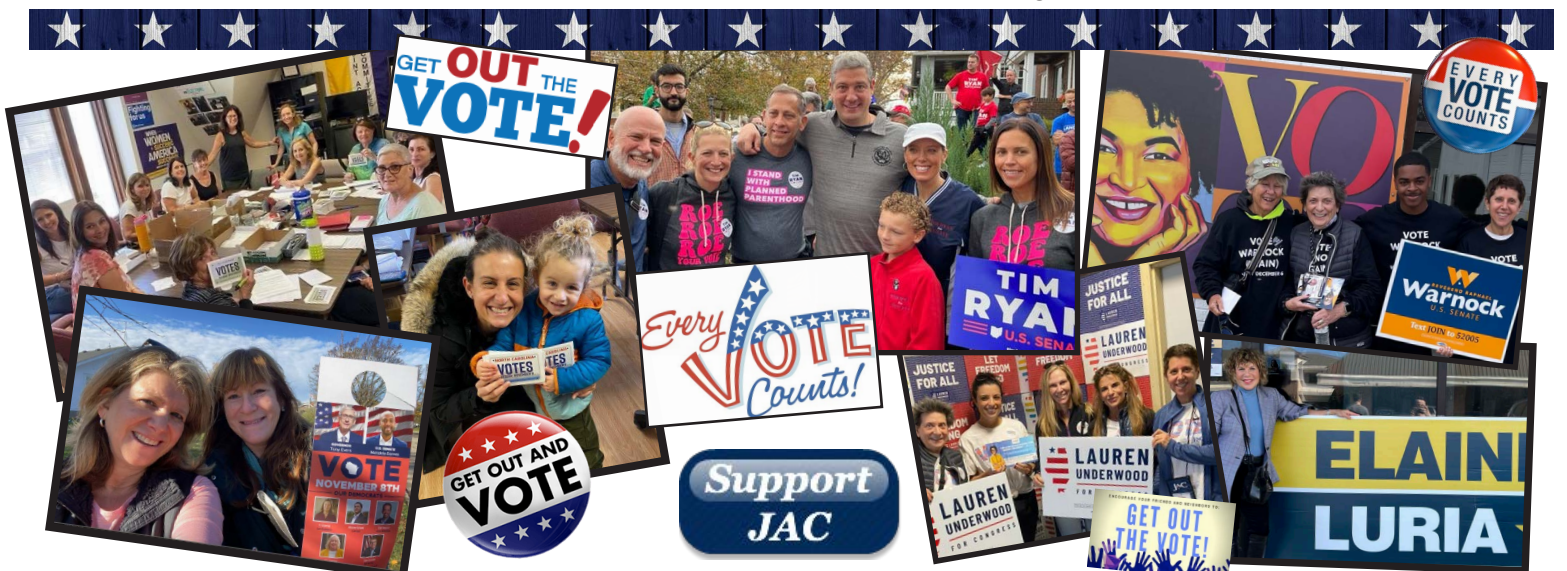
President Biden has appointed a record number of judges, more than any other president since John F. Kennedy. One of the most important appointments he has made to date was that of the first female Black judge to the Supreme Court, Ketanji Brown Jackson. Biden has been fulfilling his pledge to appoint diverse judges that reflect America on the nation's benches.

This has also been a watershed year for female appointees to other courts. Biden increased the number of federal district courts dominated by women to 10. At the beginning of his term, there were only two courts that had a majority of female jurists.

With the Democrats controlling the Senate and chairing the Judiciary Committee, the floodgates will be open for Biden to fill nearly 85 current court vacancies. There are currently 45 judges waiting for their nominations to be moved to the Senate floor for a full vote.

This year SCOTUS made rulings on a variety of cases from climate change to immigration to the Second Amendment and to executive privilege. They have also faced their share of problems. The Court has still not determined publicly who leaked the Roe decision and how.

Justice Clarence Thomas has faced scrutiny for his decisions not to recuse himself from numerous cases dealing with Trump and the 2020 election results. His wife pressed the White House and various state legislators to overturn the 2020 election. She also attended the January 6th insurrection. Questions have been raised about her influence on her husband and his court decisions. This and other issues have increased interest in imposing new ethics rules on the Supreme Court.



JAC Elections Matter
Joint Action Committee for Political Affairs (JACAPAC) is a pro-Israel PAC with a domestic agenda. We support a strong U.S.-Israel relationship and advocate for reproductive health, the separation of religion and state, and incorporate other issues of importance to the Jewish community, including gun violence prevention and climate change. In addition to providing financial support for U.S. Senate and House campaigns, JACAPAC educates our membership with outreach events designed to inform and activate their participation in the political process.