The Jewish Council for Public Affairs is the national voice for more than 125 local Jewish Community Relations Councils and Community Engagement Committees, and 16 national Jewish agencies. Our mandate is to advance the interests of the Jewish people; support Israel’s quest for peace and security; to promote a just American society; and advocate for Human Rights around the world. Backed by an unparalleled capacity to mobilize grassroots Jewish activism, we convene the organized Jewish community on key issues. We then identify and develop policies, strategies, and programs for our network.

What is the Mission of JCPA?
JCPA was created in 1944 to safeguard the rights of Jews and to deter anti-Semitism in the United States and around the world. We do this through vigorous engagement in the public sphere sharing the Jewish voice and values on policy and legislative matters at the local, state and national level. More than 70 years later, this mission is as relevant as ever, as we lead the field in outreach to legislators, ethnic, faith, racial, and civic leaders. JCPA’s work is based on the principles that Jewish community is best able to promote its own interests when it works in common cause with others. By building a Jewish community consensus and working in coalition with others JCPA successfully protects and promotes the interests of the American Jewish community.

What Makes JCPA Unique from Other Jewish Organizations?
JCPA reflects a unique and inclusive partnership of national Jewish organizations and local Jewish communities. It convenes the “common table”, or “Plenum,” around which member agencies meet to identify issues, articulate positions, and develop strategies, programs and approaches designed to advance the public affairs goals and objectives of the community relations network. We do this through an open, representative, inclusive, and consensus-driven process, allowing all voices to be heard. Collectively, this network reaches and represents many hundreds of thousands of diverse Jewish people at the grassroots level around the country.

JCPA Priorities: Educate, Advocate and Mobilize
JCPA leads the field in responding to emerging policy concerns and to current events. Our motto is to educate, advocate, and mobilize. We develop strategies, programs, and work with communities to share best practices. We also assist communities in their substantive work, as well as with their organizational concerns. JCPA acts as the national community relations vehicle. We advocate and represent the Jewish community relations field on its priority interests.
JCPA’s Focus Areas Include:

- Reengaging the Jewish community in today’s civil rights concerns with a focus on the crises of criminal justice reform and protecting voting rights.
- Ensuring strong intergroup relations, with a strengthened emphasis on Muslim-Jewish and African-American relations.
- Israel advocacy focusing on achieving peace between the Israelis and Palestinians, with the goal of two states for two peoples, and a strong U.S. - Israel relationship.
- Ensuring a strong community relations field by advocating for, and providing ongoing support to, community relations professionals, chairs, organizations, and by promoting the field’s impact.
- Advocating for JCPA’s public policy agenda and priorities in Washington D.C.
- Addressing other domestic and international issues as the need arise. Examples of these issues include: immigration; church-state separation; and famine in East Africa.

JCPA also partners on major initiatives that are piloted within the organization and then maintain a partnership relationship. Some of these include:

- Israel Action Network - a joint project with JCPA and JFNA, to fight delegitimization, Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) efforts.
- Re-setting the table - to promote civil discourse in the Jewish community, and in the general community, by providing resources and training to Jewish communities across the country.
- Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL) - works with Jewish and non-Jewish environmental organizations to address issues such as energy conservation, climate change, and alternative energy.

Who are JCPA’s members?
The JCPA’s national member agencies are: Anti-Defamation League; American Jewish Committee; American Jewish Congress B’nai B’rith; Hadassah; Jewish Labor Committee; Jewish War Veterans; Jewish Women International; National Council of Jewish Women; ORT America; Orthodox Union; Rabbinical Assembly; Reconstructionist Rabbinical College; Jewish Federation of North America; Union for Reform Judaism; United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism; and Women’s League of Conservative Judaism.

The JCPA’s local member agencies include 125 Jewish Community Relations Councils or Committees (JCRCs) around the country. Most of those JCRCs are part of their local Jewish Federation. The others are independent agencies affiliated with their local Jewish Federation.

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