

National Member Agencies

American Jewish Committee
American Jewish Congress
Anti-Defamation League
B'nai B'rith
Hadassah
Jewish Labor Committee
Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
Jewish War Veterans
National Council
of Jewish Women
Union for Reform Judaism
Union of Orthodox Jewish
Congregations of America
United Synagogue
of Conservative Judaism
Women's American ORT
Women's League
for Conservative Judaism

November 19, 2008

President-elect Barack Obama
Obama for America
P.O. Box 8102
Chicago, IL 60680

Dear President-elect Obama,

On behalf of the organized Jewish community, we sincerely congratulate you on your recent election as the 44th President of the United States of America. Jewish tradition teaches of the importance of *tikun olam* (repair of the world). Today, as we face a plethora of challenges, our moral commitment is also a national imperative. We look forward to working with you and the constellation of federal departments and agencies to improve our nation and mend our world.

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) is the national umbrella organization for multi-issue Jewish agencies engaged in public policy and community relations. JCPA's membership includes 14 national organizations—including the four Jewish denominational movements—and 125 local organizations. Through our consensus-based process, we aim to safeguard the rights of Jews in the United States and abroad; protect the safety and security of the state of Israel; and protect, preserve and promote a just American society, one that is democratic and pluralistic, and one that furthers harmonious interreligious, interethnic, interracial and other intergroup relations.

JCPA's local member agencies, the Jewish Community Relations Councils (JCRC), are committed to the same principles. Each local JCRC brings together Jewish organizations in their own community including both synagogues and Jewish communal organizations. Through community organizing and engagement efforts, the 125 JCRCs strive to build more just and understanding communities throughout our country.



We believe in a nation where all people and communities are respected and strengthened. We know you share these same values, and we eagerly await the opportunity to work together toward their fulfillment.

Again, congratulations. We commend you on your historic candidacy and election.

Sincerely,



Andrea Weinstein, Chair
Jewish Council for Public Affairs



Steve Gutow, President and CEO
Jewish Council for Public Affairs

Alabama

Maurice L. Shevin, Chair, Jewish Community Relations Committee

Joyce T. Spielberger, Assistant Executive Director

Birmingham Jewish Federation

Robert Dresser, Chair

Len M. Feldman, Director

Jewish Community Relations Council of Sacramento

Michael Flaster, Chair

Tina Friedman, Director

Community Relations Committee of the United Jewish Federation of San Diego County

Arizona

Craig Lane, Community Relations Committee Chairperson

Toni Smeltzer, Community Outreach Coordinator

Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix

Cheryl L. Feiner, President

Rabbi Douglas Kahn, Executive Director

Jewish Community Relations Council of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda, and Contra Mesa Counties

Ron Grant, Chair

Josh Protas, Director

Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona

Heidi Eisips, Chair

Diane Fisher, Director

Jewish Community Relations Council of Silicon Valley

California

Andrew Cushnir, Executive Director

Jewish Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles

Colorado

Brian Friedman, JCRC Chair

Janet Sherman, JCRC Director

Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Colorado

Jodi Greenbaum, President

Chelle Friedman, Director

Jewish Federation of Orange County

Connecticut

Robert K. Yass, President

Robert J. Fishman, Executive Director
Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut

Norman Greenstein, Executive Director
Jewish Federation of Danbury

Gary Jones, Chair
Laura Zimmerman, Executive Director
*Jewish Community Relations Council of the
Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford*

Mark G. Sklarz, Chairman
Lauri Lowell, Director
Jewish Federation of New Haven

District of Columbia

Ron Glancz, President
Ron Halber, Executive Director
*Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater
Washington*

Florida

Elissa Mogilefsky, Chair, Community
Relations Committee
Pepi Dunay, Vice President, Community
Relations
United Jewish Community of Broward County

Rosalee Bogo, President
Ann Jacobson, Community Relations Chair
David Willens, Executive Director
Jewish Federation of Collier County

Alan Isaacs, Executive Director
Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties

Barbara Weinreich, Chair
Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando

Jonathan Gilbert, Chair
Luis Fleischman, Director
*Jewish Community of the Jewish Federation of
Palm Beach County*

Rabbi Howard Simon, Chair
Denise Cotler, Community Relations Council
and Donor Development Associate

*Community Relations Council of the
Sarasota-Manatee Jewish Federation*

Rabbi David Steinhardt, Chair
Elise Dolgow, Director
*Community Relations Council of the Jewish
Federation of South Palm Beach County*

Mitch Drucker, M.D., Chair
Daniel D. Sultan, Director
CRC of the Tampa JCC/Federation

Georgia

Jane Schiff, Chair
Noah Levine, Director
*Community Relations Committee of the Jewish
Federation of Greater Atlanta*

Adam M. Solender, Director
*Community Relations Council of the Savannah
Jewish Federation*

Illinois

Midge Shafton, Chair
Jay Tcath, Executive Director
*Jewish Community Relations Council of the
Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago*

Allan G. Ross, Executive Director
Jewish Federation of the Quad Cities

George Sisk, JCRC Chair
Springfield Jewish Federation

Indiana

Michael Wallack, President
Marcia Goldstone, Executive Director
*Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations
Council*

Kansas

Dr. Elizabeth Behrman, CRC Chair
Moti Reiber, Executive Director
Mid-Kansas Jewish Federation

Kentucky

David R. Wekstein, Co-chair
Central Kentucky Jewish Federation

Helene Kramer Longton, Chair
Peter Anik, Director
Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Louisville

Maryland

Jon M. Laria, President
Art Abramson, Ph.D., Executive Director
Baltimore Jewish Council

Massachusetts

Stuart Rossman, President
Nancy K. Kaufman, Executive Director
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston, Inc.

Carol Goodman Kaufman, CRC Chair
Howard Borer, Executive Director
Jewish Federation of Central Massachusetts

Michigan

Susan Fisher, President
Eileen Freed, Director of Israel/Overseas & Community Relations
Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

Todd Mendel, President
Robert Cohen, Executive Director
Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Detroit

Mitchell Weiss, Community Relations Chair
Gary S. Alter, Executive Director
Flint Jewish Federation

Minnesota and the Dakotas

Steve Hunegs, Executive Director
Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas

Missouri

Leonard J. Frankel, President
Batya Abramson-Goldstein, Executive Director
Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis

New Jersey

Louis Beckerman, Co-Chair
Dr. Gordon Haas, Co-Chair
Felice Maranz, Director
Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey

Merle H. Kalishman, Chair
Lori Price Abrams, Director
Community Relations Committee of the United Jewish Communities of MetroWest

Gabriela Sadote Sleppin, Director
Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County

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Howard Gases, Executive Director
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Monmouth County

Daniel Kirsch, Esq., JCRC Chair
Joy Kurland, JCRC Director
UJA Federation of Northern New Jersey

Howard Heyman, President
Alan Respler, Executive Director
JCRC of the Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey

New Mexico

Anita P. Miller, JCRC Chair
Sam Sokolove, Executive Director
Jewish Federation of New Mexico

New York

Peter Allen Weinmann, Chair
Ellen S. Goldstein, Director

Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo

Janice W. Shorestein, President
Rabbi Michael Miller, Executive Vice President and CEO
Jewish Community Relations Council for New York

Isobel Goldman, Director
Community Relations Council of the Jewish Community Federation of Greater Rochester

Lester Eidelhoch, JCRC Chair
Jewish Community Federation of the Mohawk Valley

Debra Abrahams Weiner, President
Elliot Forchheimer, Executive Director
Nancy Zaro, Assistant Executive Director
Westchester Jewish Conference

Ohio

Joyce Butlien, Director, Community Relations
Jewish Community Board of Akron

Arna Poupko Fisher, President
Brian Jaffee, Director
Cincinnati Jewish Community Relations Council

Bruce P. Mandel, Chair, Community Relations Committee,
Dayan E. Gross, Director, Community Relations Department
Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland

Daniel S. Robins, JCRC Chair
Avrum Kluger, Assistant Vice President, Community Services
Columbus Jewish Federation

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Josh Lader, Director
Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Great Dayton

Howard Friedman, Chair

Wendy Goldstein, Director
Jewish Community Relations Committee of the United Jewish Council of Greater Toledo

Alan R. Kretzer, Chair
Bonnie Deutch Burdman, Director
Jewish Community Relations Council of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation

Oklahoma

Gloria Estlin, CRC Chairperson
Barry A. Abels, Executive Director
David Bernstein, CRC Director
Jewish Federation of Tulsa

Oregon

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Community Relations of the Jewish Federation of Portland

Craig E. Weinerman, Chairman
Jewish Community Relations Council of Lane County

Pennsylvania

Jay Lipschutz, Chairman
Community Relations Council and Jewish Federation of Lehigh Valley

Marc Zucker, Chair
Adam Kessler, Director
Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Philadelphia

Mark Frank, Chair
Jeffrey Cohan, Director
Community and Public Affairs Council of the Untied Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh

Dr. Michael Weiss, President
Gil August, Executive Director
Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Wilkes-Barre

Rhode Island

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Marty Cooper, Director
Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

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Bea Lurie, CRC Co-Chair
Michael Dzik, Executive Director
Jewish Federation of Chattanooga

Stephen Rosen, President
Arnold Cohen, CRC Chair
Jeff Gubitz, Executive Director
Knoxville Jewish Federation

Leslie Berkelhammer, Ph.D., Vice-President,
Community Relations
Jewish Community Relations Committee of the Memphis Jewish Federation

Avi Poster, CRC Chair
Judith A. Saks, Community Relations
Director
Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee

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Jewish Community Association of Austin

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Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas

Lester M. Lieberman, Chairperson
Cheryl B. Gordon, Director
Jewish Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of El Paso

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Morton House, Executive Director
Jewish Federation of For Worth and Tarrant County

Steven Finkelman, Chair
Lisa Yoram, Director
Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston

Dr. Mike Stern, CRC Chair
Judy Lackritz, CRC Director
Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio

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Miriam Seeherman, CRC Chair
Marcie Waranch, CRC Chair
Ronnie Jacobs Cohen, CRC Director
United Jewish Federation of Tidewater

Washington

Todd Alberstone, Community Services
Chairperson
Amy Wasser-Simpson, Vice President of
Planning, Allocations and Community
Services
Kim Greenhall, Community Services
Manager
Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federations of Greater Seattle

Wisconsin

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Steven Morrison, Executive Director
Madison Jewish Community Council

Joel Pittelman, President
Paula Simon, Executive Director
Milwaukee Jewish Council for Community Relations