



THE 2026 VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

State & Local Issues

Counter Antisemitism: Fighting antisemitism remains our highest priority, whether found on social media, in school curricula or other public and private discourse. Misinformation, disinformation and distortion of facts about Jews and Israel, much of which is a re-packaging of age-old antisemitic tropes, continues to sow hatred, endanger Jews and Jewish allies, and deeply impact the Jewish community's sense of safety, security and belonging.

Secure Institutions at Risk of Hate Crimes: The JCRC supports the Hate Crimes Security Grant, funding security measures and programs to protect nonprofits at risk of hate crimes, including faith-based institutions.

Ensure Robust Access to Social Services: The JCRC supports the network of Jewish social service agencies, which provide a range of critical services to aging adults, individuals with disabilities, victims of domestic violence, Holocaust survivors, and individuals seeking counseling and mental health care, regardless of faith, background, or ability to pay.

Invest in Economic Development and Technological Advancement: The JCRC supports the Virginia-Israel Advisory Board (VIAB), which facilitates economic development opportunities and enhances educational and cultural ties between the Commonwealth of Virginia and the State of Israel.

Protect Democracy: The JCRC supports laws, policies and initiatives that strengthen the infrastructure of the democratic process such as civics education; poll worker recruitment, training and protection; voter access, and initiatives that combat misinformation.

Support Immigrant Rights so newcomers feel secure, welcomed and included in our state especially during this period of instability, hostility and fear.

Ensure Access to Comprehensive Health Care: The JCRC supports legislative efforts to ensure that Virginians have access to comprehensive health care and do not face discrimination or government overreach.

Seek Justice for Individuals and Communities: The JCRC supports legislation and initiatives that protect the most vulnerable and promote a just, caring society.

Safeguard the Environment: The JCRC supports policies to protect our environment through adaptation, mitigation, and resilience.

Gun Violence Protection: The JCRC supports bipartisan efforts to prevent gun violence.

Federal Issues:

Secure the Jewish community from potential threats through FEMA's Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP). This program is a critical tool to protect Jewish and other faith-based nonprofits from physical threats through target hardening and other physical security enhancements. The JCRC advocates for \$1 billion in FY 2026 for NSGP to maintain a robust security system for Jewish and non-Jewish houses of worship, community centers and schools as they routinely face harm.

Combat Unprecedented Antisemitism on college campuses. Jewish students are increasingly worried about their safety and security at school. Many are hiding their Jewish identity in the face of constant threats and harassment. The **Antisemitism Awareness Act** will better protect Jewish students by directing the Department of Education to use the widely accepted International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism when investigating complaints. This definition outlines a clear, consistent standard to identify and address antisemitic incidents.

Enhance the Safety Net for our nation's most vulnerable citizens, including Holocaust survivors, individuals with disabilities, older adults and those in dire need of support. The JCRC advocates for \$10 million in FY 2026 for the **Holocaust Survivor Assistance Program** (HSAP) to support aging Holocaust survivors to ensure they receive the dignity, care and support they deserve. The JCRC also supports the **Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Penalty Eliminations Savings Act** which helps millions of low-income seniors and people with disabilities pay for their basic needs.

Preserve DC Home Rule in the face of federal government efforts to restrict the District's ability to self-govern. Several bills have been introduced in Congress that would severely restrict the ability of DC to determine its own laws, how to spend their local tax revenue, and even legislation that would eliminate the DC Council and city Mayor. We oppose these efforts as they impose inequalities that are faced by no other jurisdiction in the United States. Further restriction of DC's self-determination or eliminating it entirely reduces the quality of life for all, including the Jewish community.

Support a mutually beneficial U.S.- Israel relationship with the continued implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding, which provides \$3.8 billion in annual aid to Israel. This funding, which includes aid for missile defense systems such as Iron Dome, helps protect civilians from indiscriminate rocket attacks, safeguards Israeli and American interests, and maintains Israel's Qualitative Military Edge in an unstable region. The JCRC also backs legislation that advances shared security priorities, including the **U.S.- Israel Defense Partnership Act of 2025**, which deepens bilateral defense cooperation and accelerates innovation in defense technologies, and the **Enhanced Iran Sanctions Act of 2025**, which increases pressure on Iran to end its nuclear program and targets foreign entities that help Iran illicitly export oil.