



2026 District of Columbia Legislative Priorities

- **Counter antisemitism** through education, policy initiatives and law enforcement. Antisemitic incidents threaten our community's sense of safety, security, and belonging. We are committed to combating all forms of hatred and bigotry and to correcting misinformation and disinformation about Jews and Israel.
- **Increase funding for the Safe and Secure DC Nonprofit Fund**, which provides grant money for improved security measures and security personnel for nonprofits at risk of hate crimes and bias incidents.
- **Increase funding for the Pay Equity Fund**, which supports early childhood educators and staff at hundreds of facilities across the District, including four Jewish preschools that participate in the program.
- **Protect civil rights for all communities, especially marginalized populations.** We support the Medical Debt Mitigation Amendment Act of 2025 to ease the burden of medical debt, which impacts black DC residents on average three times more than others. Further, we oppose any efforts to limit or deny civil rights currently held by the LGBTQ+ community. All DC residents must live safely, with dignity and equity.
- **Support immigrant and refugee assistance initiatives** via policy and community coordination. Many DC synagogues work with faith partners and civic leaders to protect and assist newcomers in our city. We reject inflammatory and divisive rhetoric intended to generate fear of immigrants and refugees that deliberately incites hatred based on race, ethnicity, religion, or any other personal identity.
- **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 eliminate the DC Council, Attorney General, and Mayor. We oppose these efforts as they impose inequalities that are not faced by any 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.

- **Safeguard democracy and voter access** to empower all District residents to participate in the electoral process.
- **Ensure the criminal legal system** is applied equally and fairly to all, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability.
- **Increase access to safe and affordable housing.** DC faces serious housing challenges, including reduced housing supply and regional growth pressures, raising rent and prices for existing housing. These pressures cause displacement in longstanding, historic communities. Decent, safe, accessible, and affordable housing is a basic human right.
- **Support organizations like JCADA, which help survivors of intimate partner violence** by providing access to direct social services that are affordable, confidential, and culturally sensitive.
- **Secure funding for nonprofit agencies** (JSSA, Makom, JCADA, Tzedek DC, Edlavitch JCC), which provide vital non-sectarian social services throughout the District. These Jewish agencies help aging adults, individuals with disabilities, victims of domestic violence, Holocaust survivors, and individuals with mental health challenges, regardless of faith, race, ethnicity, or ability to pay.
- **Preserve and strengthen access to reproductive health services** for women seeking the full spectrum of healthcare services, including contraception and abortion.
- **Address climate change and protect our environment**, including incentivizing use of energy efficient appliances and adopting renewable energy sources.
- **Address behavioral health care needs**, which has seen a sharp increase in demand for individuals and families in crisis.