

JUF Advocacy Efforts

1. Deliver tools, resources, and direct support to Illinois Hillels to help Jewish students navigate campus life proudly, safely, and confidently while strengthening vibrant Jewish community on campus.
2. Ensure students—from K–12 through college and beyond—have the tools, education, and support necessary to confront antisemitism and deepen their connection to Jewish identity and Israel.
3. Expand access to programs and relationship-building opportunities that strengthen Jewish identity, foster belonging, and build meaningful peer connections for Jewish students across Chicagoland.
4. Create opportunities for Jewish young adults to engage with nuanced and balanced perspectives on Israel and the Middle East, equipping them to thoughtfully navigate complex conversations and competing narratives.
5. Foster safe spaces for Jewish young adults to engage in the longstanding Jewish tradition of questioning, debating, and exploring ideas with Jewish identity as a foundation.
6. Provide synagogues, rabbis, and Jewish organizations with advocacy resources, educational programming, and tools to address antisemitism and support Israel engagement.
7. Partner with local school districts, administrators, and educators to ensure Jewish students are protected, supported, and able to thrive in school environments.
 - Hosted multiple educational programs for principals and superintendents that advanced balanced and nuanced conversations around antisemitism and Jewish identity.
 - Participating leaders from districts including ETHS, New Trier, CPS, and Catholic schools have become trusted advocates for expanding and sustaining these initiatives.
8. Continue building and strengthening relationships with local elected officials, diverse community leaders, labor leaders, and leadership within the Illinois Statehouse.
9. Launched the inaugural Civic Leadership Development Program to cultivate emerging Jewish leaders across the public and private sectors and reinforce the importance of Jewish civic representation.
10. Organized 37 meetings with candidates for the U.S. House and the Illinois House and Senate, and published candidate questionnaire responses verbatim to help the community better understand candidates' perspectives and priorities.
11. Leading a statewide coalition effort in Springfield to oppose legislation seeking to repeal Illinois' anti-BDS law.
12. Expanded access to balanced educational experiences about Israel and the Middle East for audiences beyond the Jewish community, including *Christianity Today*, Democratic political consultants, and law enforcement leaders from across Chicagoland.
13. Represent the Jewish community on the Mayor's Chicago Commission on Human Relations and helped initiate, draft, and defend the Commission's report on antisemitism.
14. Co-led, alongside the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, the Metropolitan Chicago Antisemitism Law Enforcement Task Force.
15. Organized tours of the Nova Exhibit for interfaith leaders, educators, civic leaders, and elected officials to deepen awareness and understanding of the October 7 attacks and their impact.
16. Maintain ongoing dialogue and relationship-building efforts with Presbyterian, Catholic, and Lutheran religious leaders.
17. Continue strengthening Jewish-Black relationships through ongoing partnership and leadership engagement with The Unity Forum.
18. Expanded JUF's community security umbrella to help ensure Chicago-area Jewish institutions and community members can participate in Jewish life free from fear.
 - Provided free professional security expertise and guidance to more than 300 Jewish organizations across the Chicago area.
 - Led the coalition effort that secured \$7.5 million in state nonprofit security grants.
19. Successfully advocated for changes to the Chicago City Code to designate synagogues and all places of worship as noise-sensitive zones, helping create safer environments for congregants and program participants.
20. Hosted antisemitism training for the Cook County Board.

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