



# Advocacy Update

Sent June 13, 2012

“This is the generation and those who seek its welfare” (Psalms 24:6). Rabbi *Judah the Patriarch and the sages differed in this matter. One opinion was that the character of the generation is determined by its leader. According to the other opinion, the character of the leader is determined by the generation.*  
–Talmud, Arachin 17a

A crucial election day for the U.S. is only months away. At stake are vital political, economic and moral issues of concern to all Americans, in addition to issues of special concern to American Jews.

Now is the time for sisterhoods in the U.S. engage their members and congregations to fulfill their civic duty and to make sure our values are brought into the voting booth.

During the next four years, legislation on significant issues such as reproductive rights, pay equity, health care, economic justice and support for Israel is likely to be considered by the next Congress and administration. With the stakes so high, we must work to reverse the trend toward declining percentages of voters.

Jewish citizens have an obligation to participate in the elections to ensure that policies at the local, state/province, and national levels reflect our commitment to social justice. Every vote counts and plays a defining role in setting policy agendas. It is our civic duty to register promptly, educate ourselves about the critical issues and VOTE!

During the campaign season, it is particularly important that we avoid partisan political activity within our sisterhoods and congregations. Nonetheless, non-partisan Get Out the Vote and educational programs are perfectly acceptable. Be sure to review the Religious Action Center resources if you plan to work on these issues in the months preceding the upcoming U.S. presidential election.

See you at the polls on November 6, 2012!