

2021 ADVOCACY AGENDA

- **SUPPORT \$1.5m for NON-PROFIT SECURITY IN GOVERNOR NORTHAM'S PROPOSED BUDGET**
- **SUPPORT ADDING DISABILITY AS BASIS FOR DISCRIMINATION**
- **SUPPORT TEACHER TRAINING IN CULTURAL AWARENESS**
- **SUPPORT REDEFINED CATEGORIES OF VICTIMS FOR CERTAIN HATE CRIMES**

SUMMARY: The Jewish Community Relations Committee – the government relations and public affairs arm of the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond – advocates on behalf of the over 15,000 Jewish residents of the Greater Richmond and Central Virginia region.

- Our commitment to **protecting the Jewish community from physical threats** by securing our agencies and synagogues is at the core of our support for passage of the Governor's budget, which includes \$1.5m for non-profit security grants.
- Our mission to help **protect the most vulnerable in our community** - especially at time of crisis - is why we support adding disability as a basis for discrimination. This is especially important right now during the Jewish Federation of North America's Jewish Disability Advocacy Month.
- Our ongoing work toward the **eradication of anti-Semitism and racism of all kinds** is at the heart of our support for funding teacher training in cultural awareness. This bill is the direct outgrowth of our advocacy for enhanced Holocaust education, which established a Dept. of Education Advisory Committee with a core focus of addressing anti-Semitism and racism through the lens of the Holocaust. This funding is the first step toward the success of this committee.
- In order to truly **eradicate racism and discrimination** in our community, we also support the ongoing success of anti-Hate Crimes legislation in the Commonwealth - and support the redefining of who is a victim of a hate crime. We stand in solidarity with communities or individuals who are victims of a crime based solely on their identity.

SUPPORT: Budget Includes \$1.5 for Non-Profit Security Grants.

BUDGET BILLS: Governor Ralph Northam

SUPPORT: HB 1848 Virginia Human Rights Acts; adds disability as a basis for discrimination

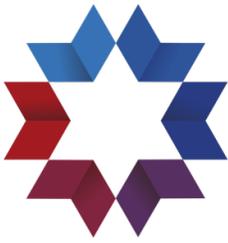
CHIEF HOUSE PATRON: Mark Sickles

SUPPORT: HB 1904 Training in cultural competency and anti-bias tools for teachers, Principals, and division Superintendents as part of evaluation and certification/licensing. Funding bill for training connected to Dept. of Education Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

CHIEF HOUSE PATRON: Clinton Jenkins

SUPPORT: SB 1203 Hate crimes; Redefines the categories of victims - intentional selection for a hate crime.

CHIEF SENATE PATRON: Ghazala Hashmi



**Virginia Jewish
Communities**

Community Relations Council of the United Jewish
Community of the Virginia Peninsula, Inc.
SWendell@UJCVP.org 757-930-1422
www.UJCVP.org

Jewish Community Relations Committee of the
Jewish Community Federation of Richmond
DCohen@JewishRichmond.org 804-545-8626
www.JewishRichmond.org/JCRC

Jewish Community Relations Council of the
United Jewish Federation of Tidewater
BGlazer@ujft.org 757-965-6112
www.JewishVA.org/JCRC

Jewish Community Relations Council of
Greater Washington
VFishman@jcouncil.org 703-307-3467
www.jcouncil.org

CONTINUED SUPPORT VIRGINIA ISRAEL ADVISORY BOARD

Thank you for your continued support in maintaining vital funding for the Virginia Israel Advisory Board (VIAB). The Virginia Israel Advisory Board is an agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia (Office of the General Assembly) that facilitates Israeli companies to establish and grow their operations in Virginia - and Virginia companies to source innovative Israeli technology.

VIAB Goals are to Increase ...

- *Economic Growth and Job Creation* for the Commonwealth of Virginia
- *Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)*
- *Competitive Advantages* by bringing world-leading technologies to Virginia

VIAB Economic Impact:

The Economic Impact of the Virginia Israel Advisory Board during the past 10 years is 6000 times our annual budget.

The Dragas Center for Economic Analysis and Policy at Old Dominion University conducted case studies of Israeli companies and their economic impact (increase in GDP) to Virginia's economy.

- *Zim Shipping* (Norfolk) **\$900m Economic Impact** - 4000 times VIAB's annual budget
- *Oran Safety Glass* (Emporia) - **\$400m Economic Impact** - 2000 times VIAB's annual budget.
- *Energix* invested **\$130m** in Virginia in 2019-2020 with an economic impact of **\$33m**, built their U.S. HQ in Arlington with 30 staffers and developed renewable energy projects throughout the Commonwealth.



Notable VIAB Activities:

Governor Ralph Northam Visited Israel with VIAB for meetings with leading Israeli companies who have already invested more than \$750 million in Virginia. (See photo).

When meeting Energix executives **Governor Northam** said: "Energix has an impressive portfolio of projects... and we are confident that the company will contribute to our Clean Energy Virginia initiative to create good-paying jobs and drive new investment in this burgeoning industry."

Secretary of Commerce and Trade Brian Ball said: "We are committed to our partnership with Energix ... The Commonwealth is committed to clean energy production, and Energix will aid us in achieving our goals."

