

STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE

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Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote

As 2019 comes to an end, we reflect on the past year and plan for 2020 – an election year -- with new goals for fairness and freedoms for everyone. The only way to change the temperament and policies of our current government is to change the people who run it. This means voting and encouraging others to vote as well. NCJW's "Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote" project brings awareness to the citizens in our cities, then moves to the states and ultimately, to the federal government.

You can start by learning who your City Council members are, when and where they meet and attend a session when an issue you care about is being debated. Then find out who represents your legislative district in the Arizona House and in the State Senate by contacting me at advocacy@ncjwaz.org. You can make appointments to see them at the Capitol in downtown Phoenix. You can voice your opinion on bills that are up for votes and follow up with emails, phone calls and sign into the RTS system at www.azleg.gov. The same process can be used with our federal Representatives and Senators. These are the beginning steps to a true democracy. Remember, everyone can be a lobbyist. We have that right under our Constitution.

In Washington, our NCJW staff are paid lobbyists. They represent 90,000 NCJW members and supporters. Here in Arizona our activists (unpaid lobbyists) represent us. We plan visits to our representatives from January through April when the State Legislature is in session. We can do this because Phoenix is the state capital and many of us live in the metropolitan area. As your State Policy Advocate, I have been to Washington DC to represent NCJW/AZ at our lawmakers' offices there. I also visit them locally when they are available.

Please join me and our NCJW members and friends in the 2020 "Promote the Vote, Protect the Vote" campaign.