

TEXAS SPA ACTION ALERT
September 2008

To: NCJW Texas State Public Affairs Action Network
From: Marlene Cohen and Janet Neuenschwander, Co-Chairs

To our members and friends in Houston – we hope that you and your families have survived Ike with no major mishaps. If there is anything we can do, please let us know.

DAY ON THE HILL – February 16 – 17, 2009

Join NCJW members from around Texas for a day of speakers and training that will help you learn about what's happening with the issues NCJW cares about, and then it's off to the Capitol to speak with our legislators.

Attached to this alert is a Save-the-Date announcement and registration form for DOTH. Please distribute to your Sections and place in your newsletters.

As we all know, costs are rising rapidly, including hotel rooms and food. SPAs have always been very frugal with expenses and will continue this practice. We will be staying this year at the Doubletree Guest Suites Austin. While the room rates are higher, you can easily sleep three in each suite, so this can help with the cost.

We look forward to seeing you in Austin.

Remember to VOTE!

This is a presidential election year and your vote matters! Several important deadlines concerning registration and voting in Texas are listed below. The State's website at www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/index.shtml or to www.vote411.org can provide you with most information you will need for this election.

Please remember that all activities must fall in line with NCJW's 501c3 tax-exempt status – we can support issues but not candidates.

Last Day to Register to Vote in this election: October 6

Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail: October 26 (application received, not just Postmarked).

Early Voting in person: October 20 thru October 31.

Election Day: November 4 - Polls are open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. You must vote in the polling place designated for your precinct.

Please note: if you have children or grandchildren attending college out of town, remind them to apply for an absentee ballot.

Provider Conscience Regulation

Most of you have received numerous alerts about this regulation proposed by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This new regulation would allow doctors, nurses, and other health care personnel—including administrative staff like receptionists—to deny women access to birth control, based on their own personal beliefs that birth control is immoral. The rules would also permit individuals to refuse to provide information and counseling about basic health care services if doing so would violate his or her religious beliefs.

The public commenting period only runs until **September 25**, so if you haven't yet voiced your concerns on this, please do so now.

Please note: If you took action before August 25 on this regulation, you need to do it again. The earlier alert was issued before the final version of the regulation was issued.

[NCJW has an action alert on their website. Go to www.ncjw.org to submit your comments.](http://www.ncjw.org)

Healthy Women, Healthy Families Survey

Please remember to distribute (and submit!) the Healthy Women Healthy Families women's health surveys.

The survey can be found at: **www.HealthyWomenHealthyFamilies.org**.

A limited number of printed brochures are available for distribution. If you would like some, let us know and we will try to get some mailed to you.

As Rosh Hashanah approaches, we wish you and your families a continued faith in the future, belief in action. May your year be filled with peace, joy, good health, and no more hurricanes. L'Shanah Tovah.

Janet and Marlene