



National Council of Jewish Women **PITTSBURGH**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NCJW Pittsburgh Hosts Panel on Voting Rights at Annual Meeting**

*The discussion features women in local, state, and national political leadership.*

PITTSBURGH, PA (April 25, 2019) - The National Council of Jewish Women, Pittsburgh section, will hold its annual meeting on **Thursday, June 6, 2019** at the **Jewish Community Center in Squirrel Hill**. The event is open to the public and features a **panel discussion on Voting Rights & Our Democracy**, which will address efforts to deprive people, particularly people of color, women, individuals with disabilities, and members of the LGBTQ+ community, of the right to vote and curtail political power. Panelists will identify opportunities for attendees to help remove barriers to the ballot before the 2020 election.

*Voting Rights & Our Democracy* panelists include:

- **Feyisola Alabi**, Special Initiatives and Welcoming Pittsburgh Manager in the Office of Mayor William Peduto
- **Izzy Bronstein**, National Grassroots Organizer at Common Cause
- **Erin Casey**, Executive Director of Pennsylvania Voice
- **Jennifer Clarke**, Executive Director of the Public Interest Law Center

The panel will be moderated by **Tessa Provins**, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Pittsburgh.

The National Council of Jewish Women has worked on voting rights issues throughout its 125-year history, explains event and Advocacy co-chair Cheryl Kleiman. "NCJW Pittsburgh is committed to ensuring that our current movement is led by and for the people most impacted. It is not enough to simply vote on election day. From voter suppression and gerrymandering to the census and secure elections, we must take action now to ensure that the right to vote is afforded to all."

After the panel discussion, NCJW Pittsburgh will install 2019-2020 leadership and honor members of the NCJW community. Members of the public are welcome to stay for this business and learn more about how to get involved with NCJW Pittsburgh's advocacy efforts and community service programs.

- **Sarah Blask** will receive the NCJW Emerging Leader Award.

- **Paula Garret** will receive the Ruth & Jerome Lieber Leadership Award.
- **Lissa Guttman** will receive the Dawn Hirsch Memorial Award.
- **Jill Loiben** will receive the Presidential Award.

NCJW Pittsburgh's annual meeting is open to the public. Doors open at 6:30 pm for a wine and dessert reception, and the program begins at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door, and include wine and dessert. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit [ncjwpgh.org/votingrights](http://ncjwpgh.org/votingrights).

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### **About NCJW Pittsburgh**

For over 125 years, the National Council of Jewish Women, Pittsburgh Section has been at the forefront of social change—championing the needs of women, children, and families—while taking proactive measures on issues impacting child welfare, women's rights, and reproductive freedom. NCJW Pittsburgh Section continues to fill a unique place among the service organizations in Pittsburgh as the only Jewish women's organization dedicated to both grassroots advocacy and community service. Run by and created for people of all genders, faiths, and backgrounds, NCJW Pittsburgh's programs include the Center for Women, the Children's Rooms in the Courts, Project Prom, the Back 2 School Store, and Thriftique.

To reserve your press pass for the event, or to arrange an interview with NCJW Pittsburgh Executive Director Cristina Ruggiero or event co-chairs Tanya Bielski-Braham and Cheryl Kleiman, please contact Katie Urich at [katie@wildess.com](mailto:katie@wildess.com) or 412.334.3288.