



Diocesan Public Advocacy on Social Issues

Approved by Diocesan Council, April 12, 2025

I. Policy title: Diocesan Public Advocacy on Social Issues

II. Purpose of policy: The purpose of this policy is to clarify the criteria and process by which the Diocese engages in public advocacy on social issues. Public advocacy may take place via letters or opinion pieces to newspapers, legislative advocacy, signing petitions, action alerts, providing or signing letters of support, social media postings, or taking other actions via appropriate forms of public communication.

III. Criteria for public advocacy statements: Public advocacy must be based in the [Core Beliefs](#) and [Ministries](#) of the Episcopal Church and be consistent with [Episcopal Church Public Policy Resolutions](#) or Diocesan Convention Resolutions.

IV. Who may engage in public advocacy on behalf of the Diocese:

- The Bishop of North Dakota, at the Bishop's discretion and in consultation with the Diocesan Council
- If there is no Bishop canonically authorized to act in the Diocese, the Standing Committee as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese may issue public statements, at its discretion
- The Annual Convention, as approved by a 2/3rds vote of delegates via Resolution
- The Diocesan Council, acting for the Convention between its Annual meetings, under the executive direction of the Bishop, and following the process outlined below.

V. Process to be followed by the Diocesan Council for engaging in public advocacy:

1. Any member of the Council, a Diocesan Committee, vestries, or a parishioner of the Diocese may request that the Council engage in public advocacy.
2. The individual or group requesting advocacy by the Council submits a document to the Bishop and the Council which outlines:
 - a. The name and contact information of the individual or group submitting the request
 - b. The issue or action about which advocacy is requested and the specific language requested in advocacy statements
 - c. The rationale for the advocacy and how it is consistent with the criteria for public advocacy in III above
 - d. The method and date by which the advocacy should take place
 - e. Any educational materials which may be useful to the Council, the Diocese, or public for understanding the issue
3. After discussion of the request (which may include conversation with the person or group submitting the request), the Council makes a decision via majority vote.
4. The Council designates one or more individuals to inform the requesting party of the Council's decision and to carry out the advocacy on behalf of the Council (if the Council votes in favor of the advocacy).

5. The Council and/or Bishop will facilitate emotional/mental health support to any individuals who experience hurtful retaliation as a result of public advocacy.

VI. Application to individual congregations: This policy does not endorse or deny the ability of priests, deacons, or vestries from addressing concerns that effect their communities.