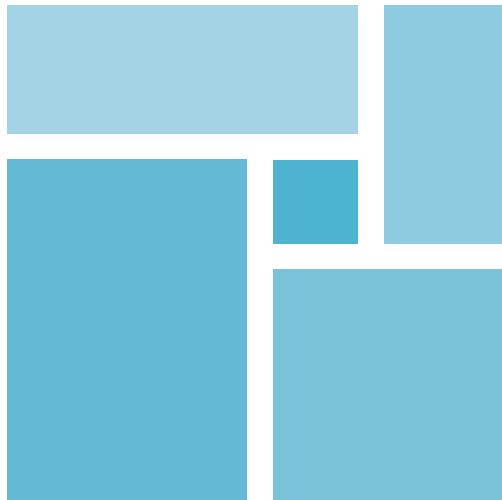




THE PEW FORUM ON RELIGION & PUBLIC LIFE  
*Research. News. Discussion.*

# Religious Advocacy & Public Policy

**A Survey of the Concerns and Initiatives of  
National Religious Organizations**



**Conducted by Dr. Allen Hertzke,  
Visiting Senior Fellow**

**Pew Research Center's  
Forum on Religion & Public Life**

[www.pewforum.org](http://www.pewforum.org)

### Section I—Public Policy Concerns

Thank you for taking a few minutes to fill out the following questionnaire. National religious organizations represent a great diversity of religious communities, values and institutions. They also have a variety of issue concerns and public policy stances. Please let us know about the issues that concern you, and give some sense of their priority, by answering the following questions.

1. What are your organization's top three public policy concerns? (List more if necessary.)

Top priority:

Second:

Third:

Other:

Other:

2. What was your organization's top public policy concern last year (2008)?

3. What will be your organization's top public policy concern this year (2009)?

4. Generally, how important is public policy advocacy to your organization?

- Public policy advocacy is the most important thing we do.
- Public policy advocacy is one of several important things we do.
- Public policy advocacy is occasionally an important thing we do.
- Public policy advocacy is not an important thing we do.

Please provide any additional comments about your organization's public policy concerns here:

## Section II—Public Policy Activities

We know that organizations are involved in a variety of activities, not all of which involve public policy advocacy. Our goal is to understand the ways in which different religious or faith-based organizations broadly represent their public policy concerns. In answering the following questions, feel free to write in the margins or use the comments section on page 6 to elaborate.

5. Please indicate which of the following activities your organization uses to promote its policy concerns:
- Yes  No a. Inform your members or constituents about public policy concerns or upcoming issues
- Yes  No b. Issue news releases or participate in press conferences on policy concerns
- Yes  No c. Send correspondence to public officials
- Yes  No d. Provide policy papers to public officials
- Yes  No e. Sign coalition letters to public officials
- Yes  No f. Personally meet with public officials
- Yes  No g. Testify or arrange testimony before a congressional or executive hearing
- Yes  No h. Strive to inform public opinion about an issue
- Yes  No i. Initiate letter-writing campaigns or constituent email campaigns to members of Congress, the president or other government officials
- Yes  No j. Produce score cards on how members of Congress voted on issues of concern
- Yes  No k. Participate in public demonstrations or rallies
- Yes  No l. Support candidates or election campaigns

Are there any other activities? If so, please describe here:

6. Of these activities, which three does your organization engage in most often? Please list in order of frequency.

Most frequent:

Second:

Third:

7. How often do you or your staff personally meet with public officials?

Weekly     Few times a month     Few times a year     Seldom     Never

**Section II—Public Policy Activities, continued**

8. What has been your organization's most successful advocacy campaign?  
[Large empty box for response]
9. Has the economic crisis affected your organization's issue agenda or public policy activities? If so, how?  
[Large empty box for response]
10. In addition to promoting its views in the United States, does your organization attempt to promote its concerns internationally? If yes, please explain how.  
[Large empty box for response]
11. What communication technology or Web-based tools does your organization use as part of its outreach strategy?
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Targeted email to key contacts      | <input type="checkbox"/> Mass email alerts to members or stakeholders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email to international stakeholders | <input type="checkbox"/> Bulletin board postings on website           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Online surveying of constituents    | <input type="checkbox"/> Social networking sites                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blogs                               | <input type="checkbox"/> RSS feeds                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Podcasts                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other : [Small empty box for response]       |
12. Are there other ways in which your organization gains feedback from its members or constituents about its public policy activities or concerns? If yes, please describe.  
[Large empty box for response]
13. What, if any, communication technology or Web-based tools does your organization use to communicate with policymakers or the press? Please describe.  
[Large empty box for response]

**Section III—Broader Reflections**

We'd now like to turn to broader questions about the nature and environment of religious advocacy. Please tell us in your own words how you would describe your organization and how you would capture the "universe of religious interest groups in Washington, D.C."

14. Briefly, what is the central mission of your organization in the nation's capital?



15. In your public policy advocacy, who or what do you represent?



16. What, in your view, makes religious advocacy distinctive from secular lobbying?



17. Did your advocacy work change when Democrats took control of Congress in 2006? If yes, how?



18. Will your advocacy work change with the new Obama administration? If yes, how?



19. Is there anything else we need to know to fully understand your organization and its approach to public policy advocacy? If yes, please describe.



**Section IV—Features of Your Organization**

20. In what year did your organization establish a national capital office or headquarters in the D.C. metro area?

21. What is the size of your organization's constituency?

Our organization represents approximately  individual members

Our organization is comprised of approximately  institutions such as congregations, denominations, religious hospitals, or agencies, etc.

Please explain if necessary:

22. National religious advocacy takes places in diverse organizations. Which best describes your organization?

Our organization's headquarters are located in the D.C. metro area and a portion of staff time is devoted to public policy issues or advocacy.

If so, what is the approximate size of paid, full-time public policy staff?

Our organization is headquartered elsewhere and the capital office represents its policy concerns.

If so, what is the approximate size of the paid, full-time capital office staff?

Please explain if necessary:

23. Is your staff supplemented by volunteers?

No volunteers

Yes, we have approximately  volunteers

24. What is the tax status of your organization?

501(c)3

501(c)4

Registered lobby

Something else:

**Section V—Contact Information**

The preceding information will be used for aggregate analysis; we will not refer to specific organizations. However, in case we have follow-up questions, we would appreciate your preferred contact information.

25. Your organization's name:

26. Your name and title:

27. Your length of time with the organization:

28. Your preferred email:

**Additional Comments**

Please use this space to elaborate on any of your responses and to add additional comments you may have.

**Thank you for your participation!**