



Beacon Policies & Procedures for Political Activity

Approved June 27, 2018 by the Beacon Board of Trustees

Section 1: Policies for Political Activity

Adapted from The Real Rules: Congregations and the IRS Guidelines

Issue Advocacy

Congregations and their representatives may engage in issue advocacy through activities such as educating and mobilizing congregants and the general public. Issue advocacy is only acceptable if it does **not** involve “Political Campaign Intervention” (see below).

Political Campaign Intervention

Congregations and their representatives may do NOTHING that advocates (directly or indirectly) for or against CANDIDATES for public office or political parties. This includes activities on behalf of a candidate such as:

- Collecting signatures to place a candidate’s name on the ballot;
- Donating space;
- Fundraising.

However, non-partisan activities that are free of bias such as the following are acceptable, i.e., they are **not** campaign “interventions”:

- Public forums;
- Voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives.

For further details, including multiple examples in each category, see *The Real Rules: Congregations and the IRS Guidelines on Advocacy, Lobbying, and Elections*. UUA, Updated October, 2016.

Section 2: Procedures for Collecting Petition Signatures

While democratic activity and public engagement are encouraged, congregants and/or program participants deserve reasonable comfort and freedom of movement before, during and after Beacon services and other events, particularly given our current indoor space limitations. To that end, the following procedures for petition signature collection apply.

In Advance

Each week, no later than 10:00 a.m. Friday, email the Beacon office manager (office@beaconuu.com) requesting that an announcement be made in the ensuing Sunday service. Include the following information in the email:

- Name of signature collector and contact information;
- Date of service or specific program;
- Title of issue;
- Eligibility requirement(s) of signers (e.g., Flagstaff resident or Coconino County resident).

The office manager will forward this information to the minister, worship associate or program leader as appropriate.

Day of Sunday Service or Program

- Arrive well in advance of start time to confirm announcement with minister/worship associate/program leader as well as assigned location for signature collection (southwest corner of kitchen or outside).
- In order to preserve time and space prior to the service or program for greeting friends and welcoming visitors, wait until afterward to collect signatures.
- Present information and an opportunity to sign a petition respectfully and without pressure.