



**The Jewish Community Relations Council  
A Standing Committee of the  
Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans**

**Guidelines for Evaluating Issues**

**Adopted February 9, 2023**

The JCRC is the public affairs coordinating and advisory body for the organized Jewish community of New Orleans. JCRC develops and articulates consensus positions concerning matters of public importance on behalf of its constituency. The JCRC advocates on issues of great importance to the Jewish community in the areas of social justice, civil rights, Israel and more. The JCRC seeks to promote mutual understanding among all groups in the greater community and to advance democratic pluralism, harmonious relationships, and respect for human dignity and individual rights across religious, racial, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ethnic lines. The JCRC consists of a cross-section of the Greater New Orleans Jewish Community representing area organizations and synagogues. The JCRC assesses current issues and develops strategies to further the interest of the Jewish community.

The role of issues management in the JCRC is critically important to the organization and its ability to maintain maximum credibility within the Jewish community and beyond when it speaks on behalf of the organized Jewish community.

**I. Levels of Action**

- **Lead:** Issue will become part of JCRC's core agenda.
- **Partner:** JCRC will partner with or support other groups in events and advocacy work.
- **Endorse:** JCRC's name will be used in support of a particular issue

**II. Guidelines for Evaluating Issues**

**What makes an issue or cause one which the JCRC embraces?**

*The following guidelines should be considered at all levels of JCRC deliberation. The guidelines are not listed in order of priority. Any issue presented to the JCRC for consideration need not meet all of the guidelines.*

- **Direct Impact on Jewish Community of Greater New Orleans:**
  - Does the issue have an impact on individual Jews, Jews as a group, or the Jewish community as an entity?

- Does it affect Jews as part of another sub-group in the community?
- **Moral Obligation:**
  - Is the issue consistent with Jewish experience, tradition, history and/or teaching?
  - Is there a Jewish perspective that can be added to this issue?
- **Promote Community Relations:**
  - Does it provide opportunities for relationship building in either or both the Jewish and general community?
  - Does it affect our significant community partners in a way which requires our support?
  - How will it positively or negatively affect the agency's strategic alliances?
- **Resources:**
  - What is the impact on staff, time, money, political capital, etc.?
- **Distinctive Value of JCRC's Role:**
  - Can we make a unique contribution to the issue?
  - Is our voice needed?
  - If we don't have a position, will it matter?
  - How visible would we be as a key player on this issue?
  - Will this enhance our credibility, particularly with key community leadership?
- **Foster Jewish Unity:**
  - Is there an opportunity for a clear consensus?
  - Will this issue unify or divide the Jewish community?
  - Are there vocal or strong minority opinions to consider?
- **Consistency with Other Issues:**
  - Will working on this issue reinforce or detract from our work on other issues?
  - Would JCRC activity be consistent with the agenda of JCPA, JFNA, or other affiliates?
- **Is there a downside of not reacting?**
  - Will it matter? How?

### **III. Decision Process for Responding to Time Sensitive Issues that call for a communal Jewish voice**

*Issue comes in from staff, board, community member, or other to the JCRC Director →*

**Issue Type A:** An issue that should be addressed immediately (generally within 72 hours) without going to the board (generally, terror attack on religious institutions; terror attack in Israel; major event that goes against our values and threatens the safety and security of our community or other minority) where there is no doubt of consensus among JCRC or JFGNO board.

- **Tier 1 Response:** Rapid response based on established precedents with time-sensitive constraint
  - JCRC Director and executive committee craft response / action plan.
  - Board notified about response.

**Issue Type B:** Issue that does not fit into “A” category.

- Director and executive committee determines plan of action
- Director notifies the JCRC that executive committee is considering issue, and JCRC members share comments with Director.
- If necessary, special meeting/call of JCRC scheduled

### **IV. Decision Process for Policy Advocacy**

In most instances, resolutions for policy positions and recommendations for action will be first considered by the Policy and Legislative Advocacy Committee (Policy Committee). Those submitting resolutions for consideration may submit resolution language and supporting materials to a JCRC member or present at a Policy Committee meeting. The JCRC Executive Committee may also decide to bring an issue directly to the entire JCRC for consideration.

Resolutions will be referred to the full JCRC by a majority vote of Policy Committee members and generally ratified in accordance with Section 4(A) of the JCRC Charter.