

people of faith respect **ABQ** women

ADVOCACY GUIDELINES FOR CONGREGATIONS & RELIGIOUS NON-PROFITS

Can Religious Organizations or other 501(c)(3)s be involved with ballot measure campaigns?

Yes! Clergy, congregations, and other religious charities may, to a limited degree, engage in a ballot measure campaign, such as constitutional amendments or city referenda. Ballot measure activity is treated as permissible public lobbying under the tax code (unlike prohibited campaign intervention for a political candidate). This is because voters act as legislators on Election Day when deciding whether a piece of *policy* will become law. Further, as a congregation or clergy acting in an official capacity, you are allowed to express a position on ballot measures and encourage (lobby) voters to vote **NO** on government interference with a woman's health and personal decision making about abortion.

Here are some examples of permissible/impermissible campaign activities a faith community might choose to engage in regarding Albuquerque's city election on November 19:

Political Activity	Congregations and Religious Non-Profits	Clergy as Individuals
Encourage a NO vote from the pulpit in congregational announcements or in a sermon; make other public statements in urging respect for Albuquerque women and supporting reproductive health	Yes	Yes
Distribute literature about reproductive health and a woman's moral agency at your house of worship; include a position on the city referenda	Yes	Yes
Organize non-partisan voter registration drives	Yes	Yes
Organize the congregation to host or attend a Respect ABQ Women event or campaign action (prayer service, rally, phone bank, fundraiser, etc.)	Yes	Yes
Donate time, funds or in-kind contributions to Respect ABQ Women	Yes	Yes
Write op-eds, letters to the editor, congregation newsletter articles or give press interviews opposing government interference in a woman's health	Yes	Yes
Display a Respect ABQ Women banner or yard sign	Yes	Yes
Donate in-kind or monetary contributions to a political party or candidate currently running for public office	No	Yes
Conduct a partisan voter registration drive or make public statements supporting any candidate running for public office	No	Yes

For additional resources, see the [Election Checklist for Houses of Worship](#) from the Alliance for Justice. *(En Espanol)*

The information provided here is intended for educational purposes only; it is not legal advice. Please contact your congregation's legal counsel for further information specific to New Mexico's campaign discourse and engagement rules. You can also contact Joan Lamunyon Sanford, Director of the New Mexico RCRC, at execdir@nmrcrc.org.

