

Priorities Process: Participation Guidelines

Please Respond by April 17, 2026

Ways of getting input

- In person, online, or hybrid
- In a committee, informal gathering, First Day discussion topic, adult education, meeting for business, etc.
- In a meeting house, church, retirement community, etc.

We encourage you to include people of different ages, backgrounds, and experiences. Please include at least one person who could submit your group's responses online or by mail.

Many gatherings prepare for discernment by reading FCNL's Policy Statement, "The World We Seek," which details FCNL's values and goals, which is available online at <http://fcnl.org/LegislativeStatement> or by scanning the QR code on the cover letter.

Discern priorities

After an opening period of waiting worship, the gathering might begin with a brief description of the priorities process and the purpose of the gathering. Participants might share their concerns regarding national issues which relate to our policies contained in "The World We Seek." **Through your discussion, please identify no more than 5 priorities of 30 words or less to suggest for the lobbying work of FCNL.** You do *not* need to rank the priorities in order of importance to your group. The most important consideration for FCNL's Policy Committee is that your responses reflect your spiritual searching and discernment.

Report your group's responses

Online (preferred): Submit responses electronically at <http://fcnl.org/priorities>

Other methods: Email responses to priorities@fcnl.org or send by postal mail to 245 2nd St, NE, Washington, DC 20002. Be sure to include the information listed below.

(over)

What information should you record?

No matter how you send the information, please include the following information:

- Who is responding? (Group or individual, Quaker affiliation & Yearly Meeting)
- Who participated? (The number in the group and approximate ages)
- What kind of gathering? (Committee or business meeting? Informal gathering?)
- Who is the group's contact person?
- What are up to 5 priorities you recommend for FCNL's work? (List priorities in any order, including up to 30 words on each priority. Keep in mind that approved priorities will identify topics to be emphasized rather than details of the concern.)
- Any comments on the process your group would like to share.

What happens to the responses after FCNL receives them?

The FCNL Policy Committee, a working committee of the General Committee, reads all the responses and meets together to consider respondents are telling FCNL.

For each concern raised, the committee considers how that area is supported in the FCNL Policy Statement and by the historic leadings of Friends. The committee also considers staff capacity, FCNL's financial resources, and the potential role of FCNL and other groups working on the issues. Finally, the committee considers what action Congress is likely to take. The committee makes choices – difficult choices – among the many advances we would all like to make toward the World We Seek, knowing that if we try to do everything, we will do nothing well.

After a few listening sessions with General Committee members, the Policy Committee will bring its recommendation to the FCNL General Committee meeting for final discernment in November 2026, just after the midterm elections. The General Committee may choose to accept the recommended priorities or ask for further modifications. Throughout the discussion, however, the priorities discerned by Friends across the country remain at the center of the Committee's consideration.

Where can you find more information?

See FCNL's website at <http://fcnl.org/priorities> . If you have additional questions, you can contact Policy Committee members Noell Krughoff (nkrughoff@gmail.com; (317) 512-1091) or Scot Drysdale (scotdrysdale47@gmail.com; (603) 643-3989).