

Kol Tzedek Policy for Co-Sponsorship or Issue Support
(not for endorsement of political candidates or parties)

Kol Tzedek often receives requests from members, friends and others to support groups, movements, and issues. Some ask for our moral or legislative support; some seek a show of strength via a public letter or participation in rallies or protests; some requests are for donations or actions which would require Kol Tzedek expenditures.

The Board affirms that active support for social justice and for our neighbors, local or distant, are key parts of our mission. We do not shirk from controversial stands, yet neither can nor should we participate as an organization in every request.

To standardize and streamline consideration of such requests, and in the interest of agility, transparency and democracy, the board adopts a three-tiered approach:

- 1) **In simple or clear-cut cases, decisions may be made by the Kol Tzedek leadership team** (currently defined for these decisions as the President, Rabbi, and one additional Executive Board member.)
 - If the leadership team feels the request is indisputably *within* the mission and work of Kol Tzedek and should be approved, or is indisputably *outside* the mission and work of Kol Tzedek and should be skipped, then the leadership team can decide on behalf of the organization.
 - Typical examples include joining a Torah-reading event, signing onto a multi-faith letter or endorsing/ joining a protest advocating an issue of social justice or civil rights aligned with Kol Tzedek's principles; endorsing a forum on Israel/Palestine issues; endorsing a protest in support of Standing Rock; backing national Reconstructionist positions; etc.
 - All requests considered, approved or denied by the leadership team will be reported to the full board.
 - Any KT member in good standing (as defined in current by laws) whose request is declined by the leadership team may ask the full board to reconsider.
 - *All fundraising efforts* should be planned, accounted for, and executed to completion within the subcommittee/ organization proposing the idea.

- 2) **In less-clear instances, the KT President will present the endorsement request to the full board for consideration** -- where leaders feel additional research is needed, where unbudgeted expenditures may be required, or where we would be entering completely unchartered waters.

- The leadership team always has the authority to pass any request to the full board for consideration; they are encouraged to do that on items where KT membership is likely to be divided by the issue, the action or on occasion by the language and rhetoric which we are being asked to adopt or support. This is not to suggest Kol Tzedek seeks to avoid controversy - far from it!
- The full board may approve, deny or seek further information about any request sent to it by the leadership team.
- Proposed endorsements before the board should be discussed at regularly scheduled, bi-monthly open meetings, so that members in favor or opposed can attend and contribute. If timing demands more rapid consideration by conference call or email (requiring quorum (greater than 50 percent) attendance/participation as described in KT by-laws for in-person board meetings), the Board President can take steps to invite non-board members or requesters who wish to be heard.
- The full KT membership will be advised in an appropriate manner (either via written communication from President or at congregational meeting) of any endorsements or actions approved by the board or the leadership committee.
- In the aforementioned cases, the KT leadership team will make every effort to respond to the endorsement request within 2 weeks at maximum unless there are special circumstances.

3) The leadership team or the full board may decide that a request is important/complex/controversial enough that it requires a fuller community discussion.

- In such cases, the Board should adopt a motion prescribing the process and timeline for community engagement and decision-making on the issue.
- Final decisions required after community discussion will be made by the full board.

This flowchart is intended to capture the intent of our procedures for support requests. (In case of any differences with the written policies above – the written policies prevail.)

