



Voice of the Sector

Public Policy in DC

On February 2nd, at the National Prayer Breakfast, President Donald Trump announced his plans to “get rid of and totally destroy the **Johnson Amendment**,” a long-standing law that prevents charitable nonprofits from engaging in partisan, election-related activities. While the President’s remarks focused on political speech by religious institutions, the underlying law he proposes to eliminate is essential to preserving the integrity of all charitable nonprofits, including food banks, hospices, child care services, hospitals, arts organizations, schools, and affordable housing providers

Eliminating the law would mean that individual 501(c)(3) nonprofits could be regarded as Democratic charities or Republican charities instead of the nonpartisan organizations working to improve the quality of life of our communities. In today’s polarized political environment, this would diminish the public’s overall trust in the nonprofit sector and consequently would limit nonprofits’ effectiveness in carrying out their mission-related programs and activities. The National Council of Nonprofits has taken a strong stance in support of nonprofit nonpartisanship and has created a dedicated [webpage](#) with analysis and other resources on this serious challenge to nonprofit identity, independence, and integrity.



On February 16th, I went to Washington, D.C. to represent Florida’s nonprofits and joined more than 200 nonprofit leaders from across the nation to urge lawmakers to

protect charitable giving in America. We gathered as part of the Charitable Giving Coalition's "100 Years of Giving Fly-in."

Why does this matter? Simplifying the tax code could create major pitfalls for America's charities. Under at least one proposed scenario, an expanded standard deduction would leave only 5 percent of taxpayers who would itemize. So, only 5 percent of taxpayers would have the charitable deduction available to them. That is one of the reasons why I joined with my colleagues to urge our lawmakers to maintain the full scope and value of the **charitable deduction**, as well as its possible expansion. You can learn more about what you can do [here](#).

FNA recently sent a letter to all of Florida's members of Congress encouraging them to preserve or expand incentives for charitable giving as they work through tax reform this year.

Please let me know if you have any questions on what you can do to help!

Sincerely,

Sabeen Perwaiz
President & CEO
Florida Nonprofit Alliance

Florida State Budget

Lawmakers will need to decide whether to include Governor Rick Scott's recommendations when they formally craft and vote on next year's budget in the upcoming legislative session, which begins in March.

Scott's proposed a \$83.5 billion state budget proposal that would cut \$618 million in taxes mostly for business, boost education funding and would revive a state job incentive program the Legislature eviscerated last year.

House Speaker Richard Corcoran is not supporting Governor Scott and the Florida Senate's budget.

Experts are expecting the upcoming session to extend beyond its scheduled last day on May 5th. This would delay the budget and therefore could impact nonprofits funded by state grants. These nonprofits should start have discussions with their board on contingency planning.

Upcoming Webinars

1. Government Liaisons and Nonprofits, [March 7 at 2:00 pm](#). Register [here](#)

2. The New Administration and it's First 100 Days, March 23 at 10:00 am. Register [here](#)
3. Branding for Nonprofits, April 11 at 12:30 pm. Register [here](#)
4. Social Media for Nonprofits, May 11 at 12:30 pm. Register [here](#)
5. Public Relations for Nonprofits, June 22 at 12:30 pm. Register [here](#)

Funding Opportunities

- The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is pleased to release the 2017 RSVP Expansion Notice of Funding Opportunities in Florida.

With this Notice, CNCS intends to fund successful applicants that increase the impact of volunteers age 55 and older serving in a diverse range of activities in response to local community needs and that meet National Performance Measures. You can access the application [here](#).

- Linens by the Sea is offering \$5000 worth of free linens rentals for a Jacksonville nonprofit. You can find the application [here](#).

RESOURCES

2017 ALICE Report Local United Ways have long worked with the ALICE population in the areas of education, income and health to build better lives. The report clarifies and describes the complex challenges they face and provides invaluable insight regarding how to promote policies and programs that benefit everyone. [Click here to read the latest report.](#)

JPMorgan Chase & Co will launch the fourth PRO Neighborhoods annual competition on April 3. Please [sign up here](#) to ensure you receive the application when the competition launches. Every city faces its own set of challenges and needs its own comprehensive strategy for economic growth that ensures opportunities to prosper are extended to distressed neighborhoods and the families that live there.

Are your nonprofit's investment reserves "normal?"

SONI is a peer benchmarking survey that provides valuable insights on nonprofit investment policies, fees, and returns. Last year, over 700 nonprofits participated.

Participation in SONI calls for nonprofit executives to complete a short survey about their investments and investment-related policies. The survey should only take 5-10 minutes to complete.

[Click here to launch the 2017 SONI survey](#)

Nonprofit participants will receive the full SONI report at no cost when it is published in April. Segmented by nonprofit type (associations, public charities, and foundations) and budget size, the SONI report helps verify that your policies are normal and that your fees and returns are in-line with similar organizations.

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