

A Shared Foundation

As the largest Lutheran denomination in the United States, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) encompasses major geographical, cultural, ideological and generational differences. We therefore ground our advocacy in our shared foundations: Scripture, the Lutheran theological tradition and, above all, our baptismal identity as belonging to God in the love of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

As we work to make a difference in the shared life of our communities and our country, these values guide our witness in society.

Civic Engagement

- Facilitate depolarizing conversations and relationships.
- Foster cultural and political pluralism.
- Support Lutheran participation in civic life and public witness.
- Honor and pray for our elected officials and public servants.

Following are policy priorities discerned for ELCA federal advocacy during the 119th Congress, which convened in Washington, D.C., in January 2025 and will end in January 2027.

Economic Policy

- Support poor and working families.
- Expand the supply of affordable housing.
- Advance a just and sustainable tax code.
- Reduce bureaucratic and administrative burden.
- Care for farmers, hungry neighbors, and creation.

Civil Rights Policy

- Prevent discrimination.
- Protect religious liberty for all.
- Improve outcomes for disadvantaged groups.
- Recognize and address historical injustices.
- Support mental health of high-risk groups.
- Uphold constitutional rights and promote good governance.

Environment & Energy Policy

- Pursue pragmatic climate solutions.
- Support impacted communities.
- Promote community health.
- Prepare for and respond to natural disasters.

Migration Policy

- Ensure stable families and communities.
- Maintain a safe and orderly border.
- Oppose mass deportation.
- Respect human dignity in immigration enforcement.
- Protect vulnerable women, children, refugees and asylum seekers.

International Policy

- Restore and support humanitarian aid.
- Defend human rights and religious freedom.
- Advance women and girls' rights and equality.
- Help prevent conflicts and build peace.
- Model moral consistency in foreign policy.

Middle East & North Africa Policy

- Insist on equal rights and safety for all in the Holy Land.
- Stabilize the Middle East and North Africa region.
- Protect civilian life.
- Defend freedom of religion and religious minorities.

Find the full **ELCA Federal Policy Priorities for the 119th Congress** with theological foundations and policy priority details through the [ELCA Resource Center](#) or by contacting the **ELCA Witness in Society** staff at washingtonoffice@elca.org. More about **ELCA Witness in Society** is available from [ELCA.org/advocacy](https://elca.org/advocacy).