



**CHARTER OF JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL**  
**A Standing Committee of the**  
**JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS**

---

**ARTICLE I – GENERAL**

Section 1. Name. The name of this organization is the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater New Orleans, hereinafter the “JCRC.”

Section 2. Organization. The JCRC is a standing committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans, hereinafter the “JFGNO”, and, as such, is governed by the JFGNO By-laws and Policies and Procedures. The JCRC is the local member of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (“JCPA”).

Section 3. Area of Operations. The JCRC shall conduct its operations and function in the greater New Orleans metropolitan area, but may also conduct its operations and function in other areas to further its purpose.

Section 4. Purpose. The JCRC is the public affairs coordinating and advisory body for the organized Jewish community of New Orleans. JCRC develops and articulates consensus positions concerning matters of public importance on behalf of its constituency. The JCRC advocates on issues of great importance to the Jewish community in the areas of social justice, civil rights, Israel and more. The JCRC seeks to promote mutual understanding among all groups in the greater community and to advance democratic pluralism, harmonious relationships, and respect for human dignity and individual rights across religious, racial, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ethnic lines. The JCRC consists of a cross-section of the Greater New Orleans Jewish Community representing area organizations and synagogues. The JCRC assesses current issues and develops strategies to further the interest of the Jewish community.

Section 5. Authority. The authority of the JCRC is as stated in the JFGNO By-laws: The JCRC is accountable to, and its actions shall be subject to approval of the JFGNO Governing Board. The JCRC shall exercise only those powers and perform those functions as are provided for in the JFGNO By-Laws or may expressly be given or assigned to it by the JFGNO Governing Board or executive leadership.

Section 6. Powers and Duties. The JCRC shall have the following powers and duties:

- A. Serve and defend the Jewish community, collectively and individually, against threats to its safety and survival;
- B. Develop an intelligent and effective public opinion within and outside of the Jewish community on Jewish community relations issues, problems, and concerns;
- C. Safeguard, protect, and defend the civil, economic, religious, and social rights of the Jewish people and the State of Israel;

- D. Function as a coordinating and advisory body for the development and implementation of programs and policies for, and participation by, local Jewish organizations in the field of community relations;
- E. Provide adequate opportunities for member engagement and feedback;
- F. Be a member of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) and exercise the powers and perform the duties set forth in subparagraph 6.b. above within the policies and positions adopted and maintained by the JCPA.

## **ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Number and Composition. The voting membership of the JCRC shall consist of a chair, vice-chair, immediate past chair, representatives of local member organizations (one per organization), and five (5) to nine (9) members from the community at large suggested by members of the JCRC and appointed by the JCRC Chair with the consent of the JFGNO Chair and the JCRC Executive Committee. Such appointments shall be effective unless otherwise determined by the JFGNO Governing Board. To the extent feasible, the JCRC shall include members who represent the diversity of the Jewish community. The number of the members serving on the JCRC who represent local organizations shall be no fewer than one-half of the total members of the JCRC.

Section 2. Non-Voting Members. The JCRC shall have the following non-voting members:

1. JFGNO Chair (or the Chair’s designee)
2. JFGNO CEO (or the CEO’s designee)
3. JCRC Director

Section 3. Associates of JCRC. Associates of JCRC are members of the Jewish community who support the goals, purposes, and activities of JCRC, and who are willing to attend and participate in meetings as non-voting members. The JFGNO Chair and JCRC Chair may each appoint up to five (5) associates of JCRC. An associate of JCRC shall serve for a period not to exceed the term of the Chair who appointed the associate.

### Section 4. Term of At-Large Members

- A. At-large members shall be appointed by the Chair after seeking recommendations from the JCRC Executive Committee and the JCRC Director.
- B. The term of all at-large members shall be for a period of two (2) years; however, no at-large member shall be eligible to serve more than three consecutive two-year terms. Following an absence for a period of two years, an at-large member shall again be eligible to serve on the JCRC. Time spent as an organizational representative shall not count against eligibility for at-large membership.

### Section 5. Organizational Membership

- A. Qualifications. Any independent Jewish organization or agency in the Greater New Orleans metropolitan area is eligible to be considered for membership in the JCRC as long as the organization meets the following minimum requirements:
1. Have been in existence for at least one (1) year prior to the date of application;
  2. The organization serves a local constituency defined as a group of program participants, donors, board members, beneficiaries, and/or members;
  3. Be a non-profit organization (including organizations classified as a 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), or 501(c)(6) under the Internal Revenue Code) or a unit, division, component or wholly controlled subsidiary of such an organization, but in any such case that is exempt from federal income taxes;
  4. The organization values the importance of community relations;
  5. The organization has a purpose, goals, programs, and activities that are consistent with the JCRC's mission and vision; and will not bring discredit to the JCRC;
  6. The organization has a mission that engages the Jewish community through educational, charitable, religious, or cultural purposes.

Notwithstanding the foregoing criteria, an organization that fails to satisfy requirements (1), (2), or (3) above but otherwise satisfies all other requirements is eligible to be considered for membership.

B. All member organizations shall:

1. Subscribe to the JCRC's mission statement and guiding principles;
2. Appoint a representative who participates actively.

C. Participation of Organized Representatives. Each organizational member shall appoint one (1) representative and shall make her or him aware of the JCRC board expectations. Each organization is strongly encouraged to also appoint an alternate. If the representative fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings without good cause, the Executive Committee may ask the organization to replace the representative. An organization may send an alternate to a JCRC meeting in lieu of the representative and the alternate may participate and vote. Each organization gets only one vote.

D. Voting by organizational representatives: Each organization is expected to instruct its representative and alternate as to the representative's role with respect to voting. Some organizations may require that the representative vote only after consulting the board of the organization; other organizations may permit the representative to vote as he or she deems appropriate. Each organization may decide for itself and instruct its representative accordingly.

E. Term of organizational representatives: Each organization may determine the term of its representative. Generally, organizations are encouraged to appoint a representative for a term of at least two (2) years

## Section 6. Admission of Organizational Members.

A. A prospective new member organization applies to the Executive Committee, which

makes a recommendation to the full JCRC board as to whether or not to add the organization. Adding a new member organization requires the vote of 75% of JCRC members present at a regularly scheduled meeting or meeting called specifically for considering applications by new organizational members.

- B. The JCRC shall set standards for admissions of organizational members and prepare a form of written application for admission, which shall specifically provide that the applicant commits itself to the principles of the JCRC. The JCRC may request any information it deems necessary for informed approval of an organizational member.
- C. JCRC shall maintain a list of organization members and make the list available for public inspection.
- D. An organizational member shall continue as such until its affiliation is terminated voluntarily by action of the organizational member or by an affirmative vote of seventy-five (75) percent of the JCRC members present at a regularly scheduled meeting or meeting called specifically for this purpose provided that the organizational member shall have received written notice of such proposed action at least 30 days prior thereto and have been afforded an opportunity to be heard at such meeting.

Section 7. Member Expectations. Voting members of JCRC (including At-Large and Organizational representatives) are required to be members of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans. Additional member expectations may be set forth by the JCRC Executive Committee.

Section 8. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring on the JCRC shall be filled for the remainder of the term in the same manner as appointment.

### **ARTICLE III – MEETINGS**

Section 1. Regular Meetings. The JCRC shall meet at least four (4) times from September to May pursuant to a published schedule of dates to be set by the Chair prior to the September meeting. In addition, notice of all JCRC meetings shall be posted on the Community calendar.

Section 2. Special Meetings. The JCRC may meet on other occasions:

- A. upon the call of the JCRC Chair of such a meeting; or
- B. upon demand of the majority of the voting membership or the Executive Committee; and
- C. all members are notified personally or by mail, fax, or email prior to such meeting.

Attendance of a member at any meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting except where a member attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not properly noticed, called or convened.

Section 3. Quorum. A majority of voting members of the JCRC shall constitute a quorum to transact business of the JCRC at any meeting.

Section 4. Voting.

- A. Except as provided in subsection (B), the act of a simple majority of the members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the JCRC. Members of the JCRC may participate in meetings by conference call or other electronic device and participation in such meetings shall constitute presence at the meeting.
- B. Admission of a new representative organization to JCRC membership shall require the vote of seventy-five (75) percent of JCRC members present.
- C. There shall be no voting by proxy, but represented organizations may change their designated representative at any time by notifying the Chair or Director.
- D. Electronic voting, including the use of email balloting, shall be allowed at the discretion of the JCRC Chair or Director.

Section 5. Removal, Disqualification and Resignation.

- A. Removal. Any member or observer who disrupts the transaction of business at a meeting may be removed from the meeting at the discretion of the JCRC chair.
- B. Disqualification. Any at-large member may be disqualified from membership by a two-thirds vote of JCRC members or unanimous vote of the JCRC Executive Committee.
- C. Resignation. Any member may resign at any time by giving written notice to the JCRC Chair. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein, or if no time is specified, at the time of acceptance thereof by the JCRC Chair.

Section 6. Observers. All JCRC meetings shall be open to the members of the Jewish community who may, at the discretion of the Chair, be permitted to participate in discussions. Observers are permitted to attend only during the discussions/deliberations that precede a scheduled vote. Individuals wishing to observe are requested to give at least 24 hours prior notification to the JCRC leadership (chair or professional). Appropriate decorum is required, or attendance may be denied.

Section 7. Use of Recording Devices. The JCRC, at the sole discretion of the Chair or Co-Chairs, may record or broadcast video or audio in real time all or any portion of a meeting of the JCRC.

Section 8. Access to Meeting Minutes. Minutes of JCRC meetings shall be available to all current JCRC members, any individual through the discretion of the JCRC Chair, the JFGNO Board, and the JFGNO Executive Committee.

**ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS**

Section 1. General. The officers of the JCRC shall be a Chair and the Immediate Past Chair, and may include a co-Chair and/or Vice Chair, if appointed in accordance with Article IV, Section 2, and such other officers as may be established by the JCRC membership.

Section 2. Chair and Vice-Chair. The Chair is appointed by the JFGNO Board Chair in consultation with the JFGNO CEO and JCRC Director. The JFGNO Board Chair may appoint a second JCRC Chair, who may share responsibilities as a co-Chair. A Vice Chair may be appointed by the JCRC Chair(s).

Section 3. Term of Office. Each elective officer shall take office immediately upon his or her election and shall serve for a minimum term of two (2) years or until his or her successor is duly appointed and qualified.

Section 4. Vacancies. A vacancy in any office shall be filled in the same manner as initial selection.

Section 5. Removal. The JCRC, whenever in its judgment the best interest of the JCRC shall be served thereby, may remove any officer from office for cause by an affirmative vote of three-quarters of the members present and voting.

## **ARTICLE V – DUTIES**

Section 1. Chair. The Chair(s) shall be the principal executive officer of the JCRC. The Chair or the Chair's designee shall conduct the meetings of the JCRC. The Chair shall function as the primary liaison with the JFGNO Board.

Section 2. Vice Chair. The Vice Chair may be delegated by the Chair to perform as many of the Chair's duties as the Chair may delegate, shall assume the duties of the Chair in the event of the Chair's temporary absence from meetings and shall have such other duties as the JCRC may assign.

Section 3. Immediate Past Chair. The Immediate Past Chair shall perform all duties delegated by the Chair or assigned by the JCRC.

Section 4. JCRC Director. The Director is the public face of the JCRC and is primarily responsible for carrying out its programmatic direction. The Director is also responsible for all meeting notifications, preparation of minutes and meeting materials, and general communications to and among JCRC members. The JCRC Director shall advise and consult with the Chair on all public commentary on behalf of the JCRC, whenever practical.

Section 5. Other Officers. The JCRC shall determine the duties of any other officers it may elect.

## **ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES**

1. Committees. The JCRC Committees and the members thereof, including the chair of each committee, shall be appointed each year by the JCRC Chair. Such appointments shall be

effective unless otherwise determined by the JCRC.

2. Standing Committees. There shall be the following standing committees:
  - A. Executive Committee. Members of the JCRC Executive Committee shall be appointed by the chair with the consent of the JFGNO Chair and current members of the JCRC Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chair (or Co-Chairs), the Vice Chair, the Immediate Past Chair, the JCRC Committee chairs, up to three additional members of the JCRC and, ex officio, the JFGNO Chair and JFGNO CEO. The JCRC Executive Committee shall have the authority to act for the JCRC on questions that arise between JCRC meetings in the absence of contrary directions from the JCRC. The Chair and the Executive Committee shall also prioritize policy implementation pursuant to Article VII below.
  - B. Policy and Legislative Advocacy Committee. Participation in the Policy and Legislative Advocacy Committee is open to all JCRC members who may wish to participate in the work of the Committee, and non-JCRC members, at the discretion of the Policy and Legislative Committee Chair in consultation with the JCRC Director. Timely notice of Policy and Legislative Advocacy Committee meetings shall be provided to all JCRC members.
  - C. Israel Advocacy Committee. Participation in the Israel Advocacy Committee is open to all JCRC members who may wish to participate in the work of the Committee, and non-JCRC members, at the discretion of the Israel Advocacy Committee Chair in consultation with the JCRC Director. Timely notice of Israel Advocacy Committee meetings shall be provided to all JCRC members.
  - D. Community Outreach Committee. Participation in the Community Outreach Committee is open to all JCRC members who may wish to participate in the work of the Committee, and non-JCRC members, at the discretion of the Community Outreach Committee Chair in consultation with the JCRC Director. Timely notice of Community Outreach Committee meetings shall be provided to all JCRC members.
3. Additional Committees. May be established by the Chair, Executive Committee, or the JCRC membership.

## **ARTICLE VII – POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

1. The JCRC is a member of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA). The JCRC is charged as the local representative of JCPA and is empowered to send representatives to the national JCPA Conferences for the purpose of representing the JCRC in development of national JCPA policy.
2. JCRC may develop and maintain an internal policy guidance document.
3. JCPA's policy compendium is continuously updated, and leadership should familiarize themselves with the topics and the positions taken by JCPA on those topics The JCRC will

generally establish its annual program based on some of the positions adopted in the Compendium. The JCRC may freely work on and adopt positions consistent with those that are included in the Compendium, or in opposition to such positions when approved by JCRC.

4. To the extent that any local policies and procedures may come into direct conflict with national JCPA policy, JFGNO and JCRC policy takes precedence.
5. The JCRC may take actions or adopt position statements guided by national JCPA policy without review or approval by the JFGNO. If the JCRC wishes to adopt a position that is, in the view of the JCRC Executive Committee, either (a) not addressed by the JCPA in its policy compendium or (b) different from what is outlined in the “policy compendium,” the JCRC shall seek the official approval of the JFGNO Chair and CEO before it issues public statements or engages in any programming relevant to (a) or (b) above.
6. The JCRC is charged with preparing internal Guidelines for Evaluating Issues.

## **ARTICLE VIII – ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS OF THE CHARTER**

### Section 1. Proposal of Amendment.

- A. Amendments to this charter may be initiated in the following manner:
  1. by a written proposal signed by the Chair; or
  2. by a written proposal signed by a majority of the Executive Committee; or
  3. by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the JCRC voting membership present and voting on such proposal made at a JCRC meeting, provided that all JCRC members shall receive a copy of the proposal at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting. If such proposal is made at a meeting without prior notification, the proposal shall not be voted on but shall be tabled until the next regular meeting of the JCRC, so that notice of such proposal can be given.
- B. Such proposal shall be in writing and shall set forth the specific language of any changes or additions to be made to this charter.
- C. A proposal to amend this charter initiated by the Chair or the Executive Committee shall be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the JCRC following its proposal and all members of the JCRC shall receive a copy of the proposal at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

### Section 2. Consideration of Amendment by JCRC Membership

- A. A proposal to amend this charter shall be approved by the JCRC Membership upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting.
- B. A proposal to amend this charter may itself be amended by a majority vote of the JCRC membership present at the meeting at which such proposed amendment was placed on the agenda, provided that such changes in the proposal relate to the same subject matter



as did the original proposal.

- C. Once a proposal to amend this charter has been approved by the JCRC it shall be forwarded to the Federation Board for action thereon.
- D. This Charter may be altered, amended or repealed and a new Charter may be adopted by the JFGNO Board.

In accordance with all the requirements set forth above, this Charter was approved by Resolution of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans' Board of Directors on **October 28, 2021**.