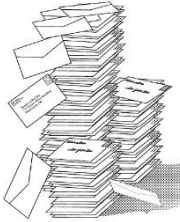




The 2026 Lutheran Letter Campaign

The **state legislative session runs from January – May**, and we need Lutherans to take action throughout on our issues of hunger, poverty, care of creation, & love of neighbor.

While participation in our annual Letter-Writing Campaigns continues to grow, we still face challenges in raising awareness of the campaign and its issues among congregations and their related committees. Would you consider doing an **Offering of Letters during Lent next year?** Or what about **starting an Advocacy Circle** at your church?



This fall we hope to encourage **regular advocacy participation on Federal issues with monthly or bi-monthly check-in/issue update sessions over lunch.** During Lent and beyond we would like your participation on our state issues. (Lent is the best timing for letter campaigns to state legislators, while action alerts could occur at any time during session).

Take a moment to **check out this year’s campaign resources.** Since it usually takes at least 2-3 years (and often more) to pass specific legislation, it is likely that many of this year’s issues will be back in some form next year. You can find the 2026 downloadable resources under “Current Campaigns” in the dropdown menu under “Get Involved” at www.lutheranadvocacymn.org

POLITICAL VIOLENCE & EXTREMISM

We have a new section on our website addressing Political Violence, Division, and Extremism. If you scroll all the way to the bottom of the page, you will find our statement on Political Violence, put out after the assassination & shooting of some of our state lawmakers and their spouses. There is also a devotion available there which was led by Rev. Rebel Hurd (Northwestern Minnesota Synod) for our Policy Council following the violence. More resources and links will be added in the months to come.

[Available Under “Resources” at www.lutheranadvocacymn.org]

WEBINARS / EVENTS

Watch our Facebook page, website, and synod newsletters for information about upcoming Webinars on Election Integrity, Democracy, Civic Engagement, and more. We will also have some advocacy-focused events coming up and we’d love to have you participate.



2025 LEGISLATIVE RESULTS

The 2025 Minnesota Legislative Session came to its official close with much work left undone.

Overall Budget Negotiations – House and Senate landed in very different places in nearly every budget area. Weeks of negotiations by the leaders and governor finally resulted in a controversial agreement. The deal came so late that the House & Senate adjourned without the usual flurry of last day activity. Negotiations continued behind closed doors on the details within various budget areas, and in June the governor called a one-day Special Session to pass what was negotiated.

Affordable Housing – Thanks to lots of letters from Lutherans, steadfast advocacy by many Homes for All partners, and great bipartisan collaboration by House legislators, the House passed a housing package increasing funding by \$75 million and focused on four pillars of housing stability. Despite persistent advocacy, the Senate only passed an additional \$3 million. **Final Conference Committee negotiations added \$18 million, primarily for rental help and homeownership support**, with \$50 million in bonding to build or rehab more housing.



Tammy, Lutheran Advocacy-MN Director, testifies for a Senate Environment Committee hearing. Next to her is Sen. Rob Kupec, lead senate author on the electronic waste bill. Most bills must go through multiple committees.

Electronic Waste Recycling – We heard from bill author Sen. Kupec that our Lutheran advocacy was making a meaningful difference. The **proposal gained broad bipartisan support** after shifting to a manufacturer stewardship model with modest costs based on sales (similar to other waste and emissions programs). Many legislators across the political spectrum were interested and supportive of the bill. However, as concerns were raised by some manufacturers, messaging also began circulating in a few districts that framed the bill in partisan terms, creating concerns for some constituents who in turn put pressure on their legislators. In response, **some key co-authors ultimately withdrew their support, while remaining interested in the policy itself.** We continue to work with coalition partners and stakeholders on the bill.

Threats – It was clear throughout session that both Republicans and Democrats were getting threats of harm, with some legislators indicating they had increased exponentially in 2025. Following the June 14 assassination and shooting of colleagues and the spouses, many wondered if they were putting their families at risk by serving.