

Welcome to the Jones & Associates LLC, CPAs February 2017 newsletter! Feel free to pass it along...

What to Expect from the New Administration



There is no question that the incoming Trump administration will bring changes to the nonprofit community. Although we cannot predict with certainty what those changes will be, the nonprofit organizations that are ready to meet those changes with flexibility and adaptability are likely to have the best outcomes.

Most organizations are already launching campaigns that directly affect their specific programs, but they may want to be aware of other likely changes that could impact their efforts. Overall, the following are the most significant changes experts expect:

- **Environment** – dismantling some environmental protections are likely
- **Healthcare** – repeal/reform of ACA likely to be replaced by health savings accounts
- **Higher education** – creation of federal incentives to reduce costs of college to students
- **Homelessness** – HUD programs to reduce funding “dependency” on federal government; expect homelessness to rise
- **Immigration** – tighter screenings on immigrants and ending federal funding to sanctuary cities (Seattle); many are concerned about racism
- **Infrastructure** – proposed \$1 trillion infrastructure spending over 10 years; while intended to lead to job creation, it may cause larger national debt
- **K-12 education** – efforts towards school choice with more federal funds directed to charters and private schools and less federal funding of public education
- **Reproductive rights** – pro-life emphasis and efforts to push each state to decide abortion legality
- **Tax reform** – a lower cap on itemized deductions and lower top tax rate may reduce incentives for charitable giving

It appears that there has been a spark of renewed interest in civic engagement. This may mean that nonprofit organizations could be the beneficiary of this increased energy in terms of more donations, volunteers or needed service. It is important that organizations be ready to grasp opportunities as they are presented.

Several local groups are working with what these changes might bring to your organization. You might be interested in joining Janet Boguch’s TableTalks (<http://janetboguch.com/tabletalks-peer-learning/about-peer-learning-support/>) or attend the Washington State Nonprofit Conference in May, which will have speakers and workshops relevant to these issues (<http://www.wastatenonprofitconference.org/>).

The Role of the Treasurer

The primary focus of the Treasurer’s role in a nonprofit organization is to oversee the management and reporting of an organization’s finances. According to the Nonprofits Assistance Fund, that financial leadership requires a combination of skills and characteristics. A great Treasurer balances these responsibilities:

- **Knowledge** – Thorough understanding of the financial reports. It helps to have some financial background, which may require some supplemental training in nonprofit financial terminology and requirements.
- **Communications** – Able to translate financial information and financial concepts for the Board. The Treasurer doesn't necessarily have to present the financial reports at Board meetings, but they may need to help to explain and re-frame until everyone understands. It's also the Treasurer's role to interpret and translate the Board's questions, goals, or concerns about the financial information or financial situation to the staff.
- **Planning** – Partner with staff leadership to develop a useful budget. The Treasurer can bring great value in preparing for budget discussions and conveying budget information to the Board. Budgets are the financial version of an annual or strategic plan, and the Treasurer is in the best position to make sure that budget priorities and decisions reflect the intentions and objectives of the Board.
- **Strategy** - Great Treasurers go beyond annual budgets, audits, and financial reports to bring financial leadership to the organization. They look down the road to find the financial options and decisions needed for longer term goals and initiate discussions to connect finance and mission.



Click [here](#) for a link to the full article.

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Should you have any questions about the content of anything in this newsletter, please contact us.

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