

Temple Beth-El  
Next Steps: Research Phase

**Things to think about before your issue meeting:**

- Why are you interested in this?
- Which specific areas of this issue interest you?
- Have you been involved in action/advocacy with this issue?
- Who in the community is working on this issue? What are they doing to work on the issue?
  - Non-profits
  - Religious Organizations
  - Neighborhood Organizations
  - Grassroot Organizations
  - Political leaders
  - Civil/Government Initiatives
- How can we work with the above community members/organizations?
  - Are they looking for partners?
  - Are they great partners for us? (Meaning: Are their criteria the same as ours, do their goals match ours, and/or do their values match ours?)
  - Are there specific contacts we should reach out to?
  - Do you already have relationships with specific groups/people?
  - Do they have lobby days organized? If yes, can we pair with them on those days? What would be our role in those days?
- How can we educate and/or include the Temple Beth-El community?
- What subtopics do you want to focus on? What subtopics are most compelling to you and follow our criteria?
- Current Status of the issue?
  - What's happening in legislation:
    - Locally?
    - Statewide?
    - Nationally?

## Temple Beth-El Next Steps: Research Phase

Sample goals and questions for a first meeting on a problem you're considering organizing a campaign to address:

### **In your first meeting you want:**

- To build an understanding of an issue: what it is, what the problems are, what causes them, what possible solutions would be, what would be required to reach those solutions, and in some cases, who has the power to enact the solutions.
- To understand the different players and interests involved in the issue
  - Gain information about them (if they're organizing around the issue, as opposed to an expert on the issue), so you can consider whether or not to work with them directly on a campaign.
- To help our own leaders develop new skills and gain new insight.

### **In the meeting itself:**

- Ask the following questions:
  - How would you describe the problem, from where you sit?
  - Can you tell us any stories of times you've seen the problem firsthand?
  - Who is most affected by the problem? Who is least affected? Does anyone benefit from the current situation?
  - What do you think the causes of the problem are?
  - When and how did it get to be this way?
  - What could potentially be done about the problem? Who has the power to make it happen?
  - Why hasn't that been done already?
  - Who do you think is doing the best work around this issue?
  - Is there anything else we should be thinking about or asking?
  - Is there anyone else we should talk to?
  - Does our focus meet the criteria laid out in our H3 meeting on January 31st?
- The answers to the above questions help provide a road-map for next steps.

*After your first meeting, you'll need to decide which specific aspects of the problem you plan to organize around, who we can start to meet with who is also working on this issue, how does the issue fulfill our criteria for Temple Beth-El, and why this is important for our community. This may take more than one meeting!! People can do research on their own and then come back together as a larger group to discuss findings.*

*Sometimes you have to deal with a very complicated issue that may have several different types of solutions with more than one decision-maker. This is okay and will allow us to make sure we are approaching the issue from as many angles as possible.*