



The following Act Local Guidelines have been adopted by the Local First Board of Directors to provide guidance regarding procedures for the evaluation, approval and implementation of advocacy and public policy protocols.

Criteria for Advocacy

The following criteria will be used by the organization when considering whether Local First should engage in public policy and/or advocacy engagement on a particular issue:

1. Mission

Does the issue support our mission to “provide locally-owned, independent businesses and organizations opportunities to thrive as we work together to build an economy that values people, the planet and prosperity for everyone.”

2. Impact

Does the issue affect the common business interests of the Local First membership in a significant way?

3. Support

Is there, or do we reasonably anticipate there will be, general support among Local First members on the position to be advocated?

4. Credibility

As an organization, would Local First be perceived as a legitimately concerned and appropriate advocate for the position to be adopted?

Statement of Policies and Procedures:

- I. In accordance with the IRS 501(c)6 business league and trade or professional association revenue ruling, we *“may engage in lobbying to an unlimited degree without jeopardizing its exempt status, so long as its lobbying promotes the common business interest of its members.”*
- II. Local First may take and implement appropriate organizational positions on public policy or advocacy issues, including proposed legislation, which:
 - A. Have local (city or county wide) application or effect from a statewide application;

- B. Have general relevance to the creation, management, operation, administration and well-being of locally-owned, independent business in La Plata County or farms/ranches in regional counties, or
 - C. Are of broad, community-wide importance, and are likely to have such significant impact on the locally-owned, independent business community that it is appropriate for the voice of those businesses to be presented in the policy debate.
- III. Should Local First decide not to take a position on a particular issues, it may, nevertheless, provide policy updates to Local First members on the status of the issue.
 - IV. Advocacy positions shall be consistent with the mission of Local First's plans, policies, and objectives approved and adopted by the Local First Board of Directors.
 - V. The Local First Board shall take a timely vote on whether or not to support particular pieces of state or national legislation. The Local First Board will leave decisions around local legislation to the discretion of the Managing Director, with occasional input and vote needed.

Approved and adopted by the Local First Board of Directors on May 23, 2018