*Sent to all Members*

May 18, 2025

Dear {%FName%},

Federal budget cuts are predicted to impact many, if not all, of the Rotary seven areas of focus.

My question to you as a member of Rotary International is what, in your opinion, is the appropriate response from an organization that is not political?

I believe we have a responsibility to discuss public policy issues that impact the core values of Rotary.

And I also believe that Rotarians who often recite The Four Way Test should be able to have important, sometimes difficult, public discussions with respect and civility and NOT name-calling and rancor.

Recent examples of federal budget cuts that will impact Rotary service include the US Agency for International Development, the Environmental Protection Agency, National Institute on Health, State Department supervision of Rotary Youth Exchange programs, and, most recently, cuts to polio eradication and medical research.

The reality in which we find ourselves today is a strong inducement to increase our fundraising efforts through support of The Rotary Foundation.

Rotarians in leadership positions in RYE and polio eradication are urging a letter-writing campaign to members of Congress. Some are uncomfortable, considering that a political action. I believe it to be civic engagement and public policy.

You know my opinion. I’d like to hear yours.

Thank you.

ROGER UTNEHMER
Rotary District 6220
District Governor 2024-25
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