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# May 2023 www.fai



# Utility Rate Hikes in Las Vegas Spur Need for an Increase in Advocacy Efforts

For the Las Vegas-based Faith Organizing Alliance, community advocacy is about making sure people have access to basic needs — from water and food to shelter and affordable bills.

Lately, that advocacy has been in response to rising utility bills for Southern Nevada residents.

The group has been outspoken about rate hikes from utility companies, which are impacting the community negatively because of the financial burden placed on families, said Marlon Anderson, one of the organization's pastors.

"A lot of times, the community are the ones that end up suffering, especially those of the poor community or lower middle-class community," Anderson said. " ... We really just have to fight just for basic necessities and basic needs, so that our community doesn't get priced out."

"The company wants its customers to know that if they are facing financial challenges, we offer tips, tools and programs to help customers manage their gas bills and usage," Washburn said in an emailed statement.

Raising rates is not the only way to go about meeting demand for utilities, he said, and other accommodations need to be considered so the community doesn't suffer.

"It is not about getting what we want — it's about giving the community what it needs," Anderson said. "We need these companies to realize that if you're not going to raise people's pay — then if you keep raising their bills, they're not going to be able to afford it eventually."

## **News Updates:**

Southwest Gas seeks 'blank check,' for unnecessary effort, say opponents. View more by clicking <u>HERE.</u>

Every community deserves to be safe from gun violence, and we must do more to protect families and communities that are at higher risk. We look forward to working with community partners and lawmakers to turn this bill into law and engage with leaders at all levels to protect Nevada families."See more by clicking this LINK.

#### FOA Legislation Update:

FOA is currently tracking 12 plus bills and currently in support of about roughly seven bills. The legislation schedule is moving quickly and we are watching and waiting for more outcomes.

#### **Recognized Calendar Dates**

May 5 - Cinco De Mayo May 14 - Mother's Day May 31 - Shepherd's Breakfast May - Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage mmonth

### What's Next:

LOWER BILLS ARE AFFORDABLE BILLS WORKSHOP



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