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 [poisner.com/2016/03/should-your-nonprofit-use-a-resource-council/](http://poisner.com/2016/03/should-your-nonprofit-use-a-resource-council/)

## Should your nonprofit use a Resource Council?

A Resource Council. A Council of Leaders.

These are two names I've experienced as alternatives to an "Advisory Board," which is more common in the nonprofit world.

What I like about the alternative formulation is you're more explicitly naming the group for what it most should provide: resources.

The Council should be a group of 6-12 non-board volunteers who're committed to doing something to help your organization secure more resources.

As a Council, they are probably only brought together once a year to meet with the organization's other leadership. Perhaps one extra time if the organization is going through strategic planning.

The Council should have a written job description and some leadership —whether provided by a staff member, the Council Chair, or both. The Council should have an annual goal or goals — usually based on the resources the Council will help the group obtain.

This is a great way to involve those people who are in a position to help an organization, but don't want to wade through all the nitty gritty of board governance.

Has your organization used a Council (by whatever name it's called)? What's worked well and what hasn't worked well?

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No comments yet.