



LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK VFW AUXILIARY

Fall Conference Snapshot – 2026 • Legislative Engagement Overview

■ STATEWIDE VFW AUXILIARY LEGISLATIVE DAY

One State. One Mission. One Voice for Veterans.

A coordinated statewide effort where Auxiliaries meet with legislators in their local districts on the same day—maximizing visibility, strengthening relationships, and presenting a unified message on behalf of New York's veterans.

Goals:

- Engage every legislative district across New York State
- Build relationships before critical issues arise
- Present unified legislative priorities directly to lawmakers
- Increase grassroots member participation and advocacy
- Demonstrate the statewide strength of the VFW Auxiliary

Meeting Agenda (20–30 minutes):

- **Introductions:** Mission overview and Auxiliary history
- **Veterans' Issues:** Focused discussion of local needs
- **The Ask:** Request support for key veteran legislation
- **Closing:** Group photo and invitation to visit Post

Follow Up: Send prompt thank-you letters, supply any requested reference materials, and continue year-round relationship-building.

Expected Outcomes:

- Every legislative district actively represented
- Stronger personal relationships with elected officials
- Elevated visibility of the VFW Auxiliary in Albany and locally
- Coordinated, effective statewide advocacy for all veterans

■ Effective Communication With Legislators

- **Identify Legislators:** Locate elected officials and district staff at usa.gov/elected-officials or New York State legislative portals.
- **Schedule Appointments:** Book well in advance; meetings with legislative staff are equally influential and valuable.
- **Preparation:** Arrive punctually, maintain professional respect, and come equipped with concise talking points and clear facts.
- **Personalize Correspondence:** Personalize emails and letters with real constituent stories; focus on one primary issue at a time.
- **Follow Through:** Send a formal thank-you note promptly and provide any additional data or documentation requested.

■ Legislative Process Summary

- **Introduction:** Bills are formally drafted and filed by legislators in the Assembly or Senate.
- **Committee Review:** Assigned committees study, debate, hold hearings, amend, or stall proposed bills.
- **Floor Action:** Full chamber debate and formal voting occur in each legislative house.
- **Conference Committee:** Joint committees resolve differences between Senate and Assembly versions.
- **Executive Action:** Transmitted to the Governor/President to be signed into law, allowed to enact, or vetoed.
- **Finalization:** Once signed, the bill becomes official law and receives its chapter/statute designation.

■ **Conference Note:** More detailed information and briefing packets are available from Department Legislative Chairman Tina Roberts at her table. Full program materials will also be placed on each seat for attendee reference.