

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
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Be An Advocate-Be Informed-Be Engaged

One of the main objectives of the Legislative Program is to improve the lives of our veterans, service members and their families through advocacy. Your efforts, combined with nearly 1.5 million other VFW and Auxiliary members, can influence lawmakers whose decisions affect veterans and their families every day.

Study the issues laid out clearly in the VFW Priority Goals. The VFW focuses on these to strengthen and ensure an adequate VA system for millions of current and future veterans. The priority goals reflect the resolutions passed and supported by the men and women of the VFW and its Auxiliary. Every January the Priority Goals for the current year are released by the VFW on the National website: (<https://www.VFW.org/advocacy/national-legislative-services>). This year they are:

1. **Budget:** To fully fund programs for Veterans, service members and their families.
2. **Health Care:** To ensure service members and Veterans receive timely access to high-quality health care without increasing cost shares.
3. **Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs:** To ensure Veterans and their survivors have timely access to earned benefits.
4. **Education, Employment and Transition Assistance:** To ensure that Veterans succeed after leaving military service.
5. **Military Readiness:** To maintain a strong and ready all-volunteer force capable of protecting American interests.
6. **National security, Foreign Affairs, and POW/MIA:** To fully support the all-volunteer force, protect our Nation's citizens and defend American interests around the world.

Here are a few simple ways you can help support our Veterans through the Legislative Program:

1. Become familiar with the VFW Priority goals-then share this information with other VFW and Auxiliary members during meetings or in newsletters.
2. Know where elected officials stand on Veteran issues, then be prepared to draft letters for upcoming Legislation. To identify your congressional representatives, **visit the VFW website at: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/address>**
3. Sign up for the VFW Action Corps Weekly-then invite others to sign up. The Action Corps Weekly is free, and you can find it by visiting www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts. This is where the Call to Actions can be found.
4. Respond to VFW Action Alerts-then spread the word for others to act. Write a letter and have your non-e-mail members sign it and mail it for them.
5. Get involved with town hall meetings-then encourage others to attend.
6. Offer rides to members/community members who don't drive.
7. Be sure to vote in all elections-then assist others with the voting process.

8. Use the MALTA Member Resources>Legislative-then teach others what is available on MALTA Members Resources.
9. DO NOT endorse any candidate on behalf of the VFW Auxiliary-we must remain neutral.
10. DO NOT wear any VFW Auxiliary attire when campaigning for a candidate.

VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship- To continue empowering tomorrow's leaders, the VFW and Student Veterans of American (SVA) host the VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship, providing exemplary student Veterans the opportunity to make their voices heard on Capitol Hill and in their community. During VFW events, they engage with Congress members, educating them on the challenges faced by today's veterans. For rules and eligibility, visit the VFW website at: <https://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veteranssupport/student-fellowship>

The Department Legislative Program information can be found at vfwauxny.org>Programs>Legislative or **scan the QR code at the bottom of the page to visit the National Legislative Program.**

National Awards for Auxiliaries:

Citation and \$25.00 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions with the largest increase in the VFW Action Corps Weekly sign-ups from the community and new VFW Auxiliary members.

Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to their Department Legislative Chairman by March 31, 2027, for judging. Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

Department Awards for Auxiliaries

1. \$50.00 Award for the most Outstanding Auxiliary excelling in Legislative education: How many different Auxiliary members were educated on Legislation that affected our Veterans? What types of materials were used?
2. \$50.00 Award for the Most Outstanding Auxiliary excelling in Legislative participation: How many times during the year did your auxiliary organize, speak with, or contact Congressmen and Senators regarding Veterans concerns: What were the issues advocated?
3. The VFW Auxiliary that promotes the Legislation program will receive a citation and \$20.00 for first place, \$15.00 for second place and \$10.00 for third place in each membership group.

"Serving America's Heroes" because we stay "Busy as a Bee Working Together for Our Veterans"

