



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Department of Maryland
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
September Mailing



Be Informed



Be an Advocate



Be Engaged

Be Informed: VFW Priority Goals

The National Legislative Service establishes the VFW's legislative priorities and advocates on behalf of our veterans. By testifying at Congressional Committee hearings and interacting with congressional members, the VFW has played an important role in veterans' legislation for over 100 years. Everything the VFW does is with the VFW's Priority Goals and America's veterans in mind.

This month we have details on the VFW budgetary 2024 goals:

To fully fund programs for veterans, service members, and their families,
Congress must:

- Reform the dysfunctional federal budget process.
- Authorize VA to receive reimbursements from TRICARE and Medicare.
- Never reduce one veteran's benefits to pay for another.
- Education, Employment, and Transition Assistance



Be An Advocate This Election Year

A particular interest for the VFW Legislative Program is that 2024 is a presidential election year, with important Senate and House races in Maryland. Knowing where the candidates stand on veterans' issues is a key aspect of the election process for our veteran voters. We also need to ensure that our veterans have all the resources they need to exercise their right to vote. The upcoming elections in November 2024 will provide many opportunities to increase our advocacy efforts. Encourage auxiliary members and families to get out and vote to support our veterans and active service members.

There are resources available to your Auxiliary at our legislative web page.
Use this QR code to find them.

- [Auxiliary Legislative Tools and Resources](#)
- [VFW Auxiliary Involvement in Elections and Political Activities](#)
- [I Vote in Honor of a Veteran sticker Templates](#)
- [VFW Auxiliary Guide to the Legislative Process](#)
- [VFW Auxiliary Guide to Contacting Your Legislators](#)



Be Engaged: Project Ideas for Legislative Chairmen



- As Legislative Chairman, keep your members informed. Update them at your auxiliary meetings by:
 - Clarifying each of the Priority Goals.
 - Sharing updates from *Action Corps Weekly*
 - Discussing current priority legislation needing our attention by contacting our legislators.
- Encouraging all members to register to vote.
- Thinking ahead.....invite a local representative to your Veterans Day Observance to talk briefly about pending legislation affecting our veterans and their families. Be sure to take time to interact personally with the speaker to share your appreciation (or concern) of his/her support for veterans' issues.

Why is it important to record and report your Auxiliary Legislative activities?

- The volunteers and time spent on promoting legislative activities from each Auxiliary adds weight to the VFW's legislative priorities in DC.
- Reporting shows that you have effective legislative program activities.
- Blank reports received with "nothing to report" or no indication of activity will not count as a valid legislative report.

William Siperek, Department Chairman
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