



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
 Department of Maryland
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



October 2024
 William Siperek

Be Informed ★ Be an Advocate ★ Be Engaged

Be Informed: VFW Priority Goals

Congress Approves Emergency VA Funding: The Senate passed the House-introduced emergency appropriations bill to cover the VA’s \$3 billion-dollar budgetary shortfall. If a spending bill had not passed by the end of the week, the results would have been financially devastating to millions of veterans. It’s worth noting that this bill would not have passed with bipartisan support if not for veteran advocates within Congress and the veteran community. The nearly 7 million veterans who rely on VA benefits, to include disability compensation and even the GI Bill, can now have peace of mind that benefits will be delivered on time, October 1.

Be An Advocate, Focus on Local Government by Partnering with you VFW Post

This month I would chairmen to focus their advocacy efforts at the local government level. In other words, promote veteran concerns starting from the local root level of the federal legislative process tree. Working together with your post VFW members is a great way to include more volunteers to your projects. Please include pictures and details with your reports.

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](#)



www.vfwauxmd.org/



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.