



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
LEGISLATIVE GUIDE
2026-2027**

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The Legislative program provides information and assistance to the American Legion Auxiliary Members to advocate for the American Legion Legislative agenda.

OBJECTIVE: WHAT CAN WE DO?

1. Encourage our members to attend meetings and debates in their areas and learn what their elected officials on the local, state, and national levels stand for on Veterans' issues. Remember to go vote when elections are held.
2. Distribute The American Legion Advocacy Guide within Units to provide members with the information needed to contact leaders and give them guidelines in dealing with their officials.
3. Ask members to email, call, and/or write letters to their elected officials on the local, state, and national levels concerning the current affairs affecting our Veterans and their families. (Keep track of the number of letters sent, and the number of responses) SEND COPIES OF LETTERS AND RESPONSES TO DISTRICT CHAIR.
4. Ask members to write letters to the editors of the newspapers in their area explaining the views of Veterans and their families' needs. (Keep track of the number of letters sent, and the number of responses). SEND COPIES TO DISTRICT CHAIR.
5. Encourage members to subscribe to The American Legion Legislative Action

system in order to stay informed, found on The American Legion website at www.legion.org/legislative. Including subscribing to the *Weekly Legislative Update* for detailed reports of current legislative activities of the Legion, Visit: www.legion.org/newsletters

6. Encourage members to grow their membership to increase the base of support needed to continually inform the local, state, and national leadership of The American Legion's support of Veterans' programs.
7. Inform our Junior members of the Congress for Kids, an interactive website for Grades 4-12, to learn about our Federal Government and how it affects them. The website is available at <https://history.house.gov/Kids-in-the-House>.
8. Complete the Legion Congressional Meeting Report Form following all meetings with U.S. Representatives, U.S. Senators, and /or their staff members. (SEND A COPY TO DISTRICT CHAIR).
9. Subscribe to e-newsletters from elected officials to monitor what they consider to be their priorities regarding Veterans and national security issues (See each elected official's website for details to sign up).
10. Subscribe to The Legion's Weekly Legislative Update to stay informed about current legislative activities on Capitol Hill. Visit: www.legion.org/newsletter to subscribe.
11. Connect with other civic organizations to communicate The American Legion's legislative priorities for potential support and membership opportunities.
12. Encourage and empower members to be more knowledgeable to take action on the American Legion's legislative priorities.

BELOW ARE QUESTIONS FROM THE UNIT YEAR-END REPORT. USE THIS TO HELP YOU KEEP TRACK AND MAKE REPORTING EASIER IN THE SPRING.

- 1) How many members in your Unit communicated with their legislators? ____ How many responses were received from their legislators? ____
- 2) Please describe in your narrative, giving the number of members who participated as well as answering the following questions:
Did your Unit participate in Town Halls? Yes ☐ No ☐ Rallies? Yes ☐ No ☐
Legislative receptions? Yes ☐ No ☐ Host a candidate's meeting? Yes ☐ No ☐
Did your Unit hold Legislative Meetings? Yes ☐ No ☐ # held ____ # of
Legislators who participated ____
How many of your Unit members subscribe to Legion's weekly updates ____
Legislative Action Center? ____ Dispatch? ____ E-newsletters from officials? ____

How many members promoted the priorities of the American Legion? _____
What methods were used to develop relationships with elected officials? _____

- 3) Did your Unit members promote military absentee voting or in-person voting?

Yes ☐ No ☐ If so, how did they promote it? _____

- 4) Did your Unit promote use of the ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide? Yes ☐

No ☐

Use of the American Legion's Legislative website to obtain information on pending legislative priorities? Yes ☐ No ☐

Annual reports reflect the program work of Units in the Department and may result in National award participants if award requirements are met. **Each Unit is to report to its District Chair by April 30, 2027, and the District Chair is to report to the Department Chair by May 15, 2027.**

MAKE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR DATA FORM FROM 2026-2027. (located on www.michalaux.org forms)

NATIONAL AWARDS

All entries must include a cover sheet, and your narrative must include questions that you answered from the Unit Annual Report.

UNIT LEGISLATIVE AWARD - A citation will be presented to the Unit Chair in each Division, reporting the most outstanding overall Legislative program. Entry must have a cover sheet, be typewritten in narrative form, not to exceed 500 words, and tell the story of legislative activism and how it made a difference in the lives of veterans and their families. Pictures and newspaper articles can be included. All entries must be sent to Department Chair Dawn Gilbert by May 15, 2027.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Alice Thomas Citation - One winner to the District with the most Legislative Bulletin subscriptions ordered. As evidenced in your District report to the Department Chair.

Romaine Roethel Citation - A citation presented to the Legislative Chair for the best narrative year-round report in 1,000 words or less. This award was named for Past Department President Romaine Roethel from Unit #190 in Detroit, who served as Department President from 1969-1970. Romaine went on to become National President, serving from 1981 to 1982.

Unit Legislative Award - A citation will be presented to the Unit Chair reporting the most outstanding overall Legislative program. Entry must be typewritten in narrative form, not to exceed 500 words. Pictures and newspaper articles may be included.

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSON
DAWN GILBERT BY MAY 15, 2027

Legislative Awards, Deadlines, and Submission Requirements:

Taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission is worth doing. It helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter—just three simple steps to add your part to our national success story.

1. Please follow the instructions as you fill out the National Reports and Awards Cover Sheet found in the awards section of the Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plan.
2. Provide details/examples about the activity as outlined in the awards materials and guidelines section.
3. Submit as indicated in the annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plan.
4. Make sure to include your data from the 2026–2027-year report.

National Reports and Awards Cover Sheet, deadlines, and Legislative Committee contact information may be found on the Legislative Committee page on the National website at <https://www.legion-aux.org/advocacy>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

www.legion-aux.org/advocacy

Find this Legislative Advocacy Guide and information on the national Legislative Committee page of the ALA website.

www.legion.org/legislative

Sign up for Legion email Action Alerts. Find The American Legion's public policy materials. Locate bill sponsors and co-sponsors, connect with the Grassroots Action Center, locate advocacy resources and Toolkit, and find the congressional contact report form.

U.S. Capitol Switchboard

(202) 224-3121 or toll-free at (877) 762-8762

www.senate.gov

View contact information and websites of U.S. senators. Find links to Senate committees and their information on legislation, issues, and committee hearings. Check the calendar for legislation being considered on the Senate floor.

www.house.gov

View contact information and websites of U.S. representatives. Find links to House committees and their information on legislation, issues, and committee hearings. Check the calendar for

legislation being considered on the House floor.

www.congress.gov

Link to Library of Congress. Search for bills and resolutions by bill number, keyword, or by sponsor. View Congressional Record, committee reports, schedules, and calendars.

www.whitehouse.gov

White House

www.supremecourtus.gov

Supreme Court

www.c-span.org

Get updates on congressional activities, voting schedules, and the congressional calendar.