

Legislative – VFW Auxiliary

- When communicating with elected officials and candidates for election, deliver a brief, concise message, but make your questions or statements clearly understood. Identify yourself, who you represent and why you are contacting them. Create good relationships with elected officials and their staff to understand their positions for specific legislation and their reasons for taking that position.
- Realize that state legislation passed often impacts the veterans and service members of their home state and should be understood as well. Same with local school board elections.
- Encourage members to attend town hall meetings held by legislators.
- Host a town hall meeting at which all candidates are invited to attend and comment on veterans' issues.
- Develop questions for candidates and elected officials to ensure they provide answers to the questions most important to our members. It will add to our knowledge of how each bill under consideration will impact our veterans, service members and their families.
- Do not allow your Auxiliary to appear to endorse or support an individual candidate in local, state or federal elections.
- Ensure that members know about the resources available to them in MALTA Member Resources. Examples: VFW Action Corps Weekly, VFW Auxiliary Guide to Contacting Your Legislators, VFW Auxiliary Guide to the Legislative Process

VFW Action Corps shows pending legislation. After each bill, in the right column, there is a marking. Most have a green check but there are a few with a red X. Green means that the VFW supports the bill and red means that it is not supported. Unfortunately, I did not read why it was not supported. This would be nice to know to contact legislators to tell them to vote against a bill.

Guidelines for Auxiliary involvement in the election process

- It is important to remember that in all Auxiliary political activities, we must remain neutral.
- Use legislative websites for U.S. Congress and Senate to track pieces of legislation.
- The White House and other elected officials have websites that provide information and options for contacting their offices.
- In addition, state legislators often introduce legislation that impacts the veterans and service members in our states. They introduce laws and resolutions that impact the veteran community. Learning about and using your state resources is important as well.