

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS

PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT PLAN 2026-2027

LEGISLATIVE

Purpose: The purpose of the Legislative Committee is to provide information and assistance to American Legion Auxiliary members to advocate for the legislative agenda of The American Legion. Standing Rule #5, National Committees – Mission Outreach

Key Program Statements:

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

What can ALA members do?

Encourage and empower members to be more knowledgeable to act on The American Legion's legislative priorities.

IDEAS of how members can engage:

- *Subscribe to the Legion's Legislative Action Alerts to receive notifications when they call upon all Legion Family Members to take immediate action on a topic. www.capwiz.com/legion/mlm/signup to subscribe. Report to your unit chairman when you have done so.
- * Subscribe to the Legion's Legislative Update to stay informed on veteran and military legislative issues. Report to your unit chairman when you have subscribed.
- * Order a copy of the ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide through your unit or your department headquarters and follow the suggestions it contains to build legislative awareness in your community. The guide can also be downloaded from www.ALAforVeterans.org
- * Visit the Legion's legislative website, www.legion.org/legislative , to keep current on legislative priorities. The site also contains the Legion's legislative priority sheets and point papers available for download.
- * The priority/drop sheets outline the Legion's priorities and you can "drop" these in your elected official's office.
- * The point papers provide more information on the issues and the Legion's position.
- * Actively post The American Legion's legislative priorities on social media.
- * Identify your U.S. representative and your two U.S. senators. Work to build a relationship and rapport with these individuals and/or members of their staff.
- * Subscribe to e-newsletters of your elected officials to monitor what they consider to be their priorities and to make sure that veteran/military and national security issues are among them.
- * Follow them on social media as well. (See each elected official's website for details on how to sign-up and to find their social media links)
- * Connect with other civic organizations to communicate The American Legion's legislative priorities for potential support and (as always) membership opportunities.
- * Attend local informational town hall meetings to become better informed and to network with other community and civic organizations.
- *Attend department and/or legislative meetings and activities.
- * Meet with state and national level public officials to discuss issues facing veterans, service members and their families. If possible, attend meetings with other Legion Family members.
- * Remember, we're putting a face on legislative topics. We can share the human reality on how issues affect veterans and their families.
- *Complete the Legion's Congressional Meeting Report Form following any meeting with your U.S.

representative, U.S. senator and/or their legislative staff members. Visit www.legion.org/legislative/aar to complete the form.

* Let this committee know if you have a personal or professional relationship with a U.S. representative and/or U.S. senator who serves on the Veterans Affairs committees or a member of his/her legislative staff and that you'd be willing to participate in the ALA Veterans Affairs Legislative Mini-Council. Each of these members should be willing to contact the representative, senator or staff member when called to action by the Legion on an issue.

* During a meeting, go over the steps outlined by the ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide and discuss legislative priorities.

* Invite a staff member of your U.S. representative and/or senator to a unit meeting so he/she can explain the best way to contact the official.

* Include legislative priorities in unit communications (social media and newsletters) * Work with your Legion counterpart to make arrangements for Legion Family members to meet with respective Congressional delegations while on recess and in home districts.

* Choose a different legislative priority each month and allow time at each unit meeting for members to draft letters and communicate the importance of legislation related to veterans and their families. Watch for Legislative Action Alerts for any pressing priority.

*Take a laptop to your meeting and show the members how easy it is to "click" and write to your congressmen through the Action Alerts – or use your phones together.

* Invite a member of the Department Legislative Committee to a unit meeting to explain how the Department initiates legislative advocacy and how each unit can play a role.

* Work with your Legion Family to host a "Meet the Candidate" night. Make veterans/military issues the primary topic for discussion. (See the 'How-To' sheet for details)

~ REPORTING

YEAR END REPORTS: Annual reports should reflect the program work of the units and may result in a national award for participants if requirements are met. Each unit is asked to submit a narrative report to the Department Legislative Chairman following the protocol and deadlines. Due to this Department Chairman no later than May 1, 2027. Email: reebedee@aol.com

~ THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM!

Thank you in advance for choosing to take the time to share a story about the positive impact you or someone in your unit has had on our mission through working the Legislative program. Your story may inspire another member into service, and it helps tell the world who we are, what we do and why we matter. As part of your narrative report, please include answers to the following questions: * How did you educate members in the legislative issues promoted by The American Legion and how did your members employ those methods?

*What legislative activities (town hall meetings, legislative receptions, etc.) did members attend in their communities and departments? What suggestions did members have to improve those activities? Please describe.

* How did members develop relationships with their elected officials? Please describe. * Please describe how members were able to connect with their local and state officials and what their successes were.

Face to Face Communication Opportunities with Legislatures?

Members Reporting sending personal letters, e-mails & phone calls?

Participation in Legislative issues can be very exciting because this is where the American Legion Auxiliary

can truly have an impact and make a difference in the lives and in the futures of our military and for our veterans as laws are passed or changed that provide benefits and improve care for our veterans, our military and their families along with all the other programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. Historically it can be proven that letter writing campaigns by Auxiliary members have truly persuaded our government leaders to tackle issues and change laws that affected change – and each member of the American Legion Auxiliary can take pride in that history and can make that same impact on the future by working this Legislative program.

MEMBER AWARD: “BEST TEXAS MEMBER-LEGISLATOR”

Deadline: May 1, 2026

Submit a narrative to nominate an inspiring member that has embraced the concepts of the Legislative program and has put forth the effort to:

- * Learn and implement the ideas in the Legislative Advocacy Guide
 - * Has subscribed to the suggested websites, alerts and updates
 - * Has worked with The American Legion on Legislative efforts at local or state levels
 - * Has created or been instrumental in receiving proclamations from local governments
- This award will be presented at the Department Convention.

UNIT AWARD: “MOST OUTSTANDING UNIT LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM”

Deadline: May 1, 2027

Submit a narrative to this chairman, not exceeding 1000 words and include specific examples of how the unit delivered mission service. The winning Unit narrative will be submitted to the national Division Chairman. Units may also submit their own narratives via electronic form by 5 pm EST on June 1, 2027, via the National Awards Form link on the national website.

[https://www.legion-aux.org/National -Awards-Form](https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form).

Photos of “Legislation in Action” are encouraged and should be emailed separately as jpg or pdf to this chairman with your narrative report. Email: reebedee@aol.com

If the Unit is submitting their narrative to the National organization via the above website, please make sure to send photos via separate email. It should include action photos, scans/links to news articles., etc.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE

- * **www.ALAforVeterans.org** on the Legislative program page
- * ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide
- * How to Fill Out the Congressional Contact Form
- * How to Contact Legislators to Advocate for Veterans, Servicemembers & their families
- * www.Legion.org/legislative [The American Legion’s Legislative Center]
- * Legislative Testimony Information Point Papers, Priority Sheets, Letters of Support
- * Congressional Contact Report Form
- * Facebook:

ALA National Headquarters: **www.facebook.com/ALAforVeterans**

The National Legislative Committee Facebook group: **“ALA National Legislative”**

Title: **“ALA Department of Texas Legislative”**

(please keep all posts pertinent to Texas Legislative information only)

LOCAL LEGISLATIVE OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN YOUR UNITS AND YOUR COMMUNITIES A great way to get to know your elected officials is to regularly attend the City Council meetings for your city and the Commissioners Court for your county. They are usually more than happy to issue proclamations for veteran related or Americanism proclamations. You prepare them (in word) and email them to the city secretary or the county commissioner’s office, and they will prepare them for you to pick up, or in many cases, they will present them at the program you are having to honor that particular day. Be sure to invite them to attend any celebration or

events your Post is having.

Suggestions: The below are just a few examples of important dates. Check your calendars for 2025-2026 or use google to find other important dates to recognize.

Patriot Day, Friday, September 11, 2026

Constitution Day, Thursday, September 17, 2026

National POW/MIA Recognition Day, Friday, September 18, 2026

Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day, Sunday, September 27, 2026

Texas Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11, 2026

Pearl Harbor Day, Monday, December 7, 2026

Bill of Rights Day, Tuesday, December 15, 2026

National Pledge of Allegiance Day, Monday, December 28, 2026

Four Chaplains Day, Wednesday, February 3, 2027

Presidents Day, Monday, February 15, 2027

American Legion Birthday, March 15, 2027

Vietnam Veterans Day, Sunday, March 29, 2027

Gold Star Wives Day, Monday, April 5, 2027

Law Day, Saturday, May 1, 2027

National Poppy Day, Friday, May 28, 2027

Memorial Day, Monday, May 31, 2027

D-Day, Sunday, June 6, 2027

Juneteenth Day, Saturday, June 19, 2027

National PTSD Awareness Day, Sunday, June 27, 2027 (June is PTSD Awareness Month)

Fourth of July- America's 250th Birthday Celebration, Sunday, July 4, 2027

Mark these dates on your calendar and be sure to get any proclamations to your local government offices 3-4 weeks in advance. You can find many sample proclamations online and modify them for your local event or ceremony or recognition. Many are on the American Legion Auxiliary website (**www.alaforveterans.org**)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CONTACT DETAILS

1st DIVISION: MARIE BROCK-TOOHEY, CHAIRMAN

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DIVISION:

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