



## LEGISLATIVE

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Legislative Priorities state “We don’t wait to hear how legislation will affect veterans, service members and their families, we help shape it from the beginning”. The whole of the Veterans of Foreign Wars was founded on this principal point. The advocacy of Veterans, Active-duty military and their families.

As we enter the new VFW year, we find ourselves facing the same challenges of the global pandemic. However, we must not relent in our mission of service to the active duty military, veterans and their families. What I love most about the Legislative program is the actual opportunity it offers us to actively participate in the process of advocating for those who did not shrink back when they were called on to serve. We are tasked with making sure that the membership and community have the information and tools needed to continue the mission.

As a part of the program that we work, we need to make sure that we are keeping abreast of the issues that concern our veterans and active duty military service members and their families. We need to become as familiar with the:

**Priority Goals Brochure 2021** <https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Advocacy/PriorityGoalsBrochure.pdf?la=en&v=1&d=20210121T151925Z> which is a comprehensive outline of the objectives and issues which require attention and maintain the focus on the promises made to veterans matter, such as the budget, healthcare, disability assistance and memorial affairs, education, employment and transition assistance, military quality of life and national security, foreign affairs and POW/MIA-VA Mission Act.

The **VFW’s Action Corp** is the VFW’s grassroots lobbying effort. It’s VFW Auxiliary members' chance to have “Boots on the ground”, so to speak. We can actively play a role in the process by signing up for the **VFW’s Action Corp Weekly e-newsletter** at [vfw.org/JoinActionCorps](http://vfw.org/JoinActionCorps) or text “VFW” to 50457. When you brief yourself, through reading the weekly e-newsletter, you don’t miss any of the opportunities to actually participate in the process. In the e-newsletter is where you will find real time action alerts. You may be called upon to contact your State Legislator, Congressman or Senator to take action or to represent a matter of urgent request to the lawmakers.

You will receive notification of opportunities to be of service and advocate for justice for our nation’s veterans service members and military families on an array of issues and continue to be the voice for veterans everywhere. Sometimes we don’t make the connections, however, the Legislative program has a close tie in with the Scholarship program, Youth Activities, Veterans and Family Support, Americanism and Community Service programs. Don’t miss opportunities for networking.

Report the number of members and community members that sign up and participate in town hall meetings and virtual rallies, wherever possible. While we are not in a National election year, there is always a need to sign up and register voters.

### Statewide Project

Contact your local county’s Board of Elections and arrange to hold a voter’s registration drive. We may not be able to physically hold a drive, however, we can promote voter registration in the community at high schools and recreation centers (anywhere young adults may frequent).

Be available to assist with online registration by accessing [votetexas.gov](http://votetexas.gov) and following the prompts. Remember that anyone over 65 years of age can vote early by mail. Also, make signing up as many as possible to receive VFW's Priority Goals 2021. These brochures are available for the asking to hand out as well.

<https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Advocacy/PriorityGoalsBrochure.pdf?la=en&v=1&d=20210121T151925Z>

Always remember to thank your volunteers and member assistants with certificates of appreciation and pins.

Please report your hard work, activities and efforts to be eligible for available awards.

#### **Awards**

1. Plaque to the Auxiliary for the **Most Registered to Vote**. Citation 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.
2. Plaque to the Auxiliary for the **Best Promotion of Priority Goals**. Citation 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**“We Tip Our Hats To Vets”  
“Soaring Above & Beyond”**