



MISSION AUXILIARY SERVING HEROES

ALA-FL # MASH

Legislative

Program Engagement Plan 2026-2027

"The best education I received was working with people in the community on a grassroots basis. Because what it taught me was that ordinary person, when they are working together, can do extraordinary things."

Barack Obama –

The following quote beautifully captures the heart of our mission as members of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Florida. It reminds us that success depends on each and every one of us doing our part while working together as one cohesive family.

Our direction comes from The American Legion through its Legislative Program. As the Department of Florida Legislative Chair, I encourage each of us to remember that our mission is to serve our nation's heroes. We are not the directors of this program—we are the cast, working together under the leadership and direction of The American Legion to bring its legislative priorities to life.

As we plant the seeds of success through our grassroots legislative efforts, every member's voice and every action matter. Together, our growing participation strengthens our collective influence and helps advance the legislative agenda adopted by The American Legion. By standing united in purpose and committed to our mission, we honor those who have served and ensure their voices continue to be heard.

We are not in isolation unto ourselves. The members of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida are thoughtful citizens united by a mission to improve the lives of our veterans and their families through effective legislative action. Meaningful and lasting change is achieved through targeted, well-designed, and carefully considered legislation that addresses the needs of the heroes who have served our nation.

As your Department Chair, I will lead with purpose, integrity, and a commitment to excellence. Together, we will equip our units with the knowledge, resources, and support needed to embrace meaningful change and achieve lasting success. By investing in education, building strong relationships, and taking intentional, targeted action, we will foster a culture of collaboration, innovation, and continuous growth. I believe that when we empower one another, we strengthen our entire department and create a future where every unit has the opportunity to thrive.

Who knows in the end of this you may grow to love the Legislative program and see the difference that it can make.

Districts and Units are encouraged to continue planting and sowing the seeds that strengthen our grassroots advocacy efforts in support of the important legislation championed by The American Legion.

One bill deserving special attention is **The Care of Americas Veteran ACT (TCAVA)**. This comprehensive legislative package includes **62 bipartisan provisions** designed to improve benefits, healthcare, and services for veterans and their families. If enacted, this legislation has the potential to make history by surpassing the impact of the PACT Act, which was signed into law four years ago.

Grassroots advocacy begins with informed members who are confident in discussing legislation. I encourage every member to practice explaining legislative priorities and articulating the reasons these bills matter when meeting with elected officials. Personal stories, combined with knowledge of legislation, are among the most effective tools we have in advancing meaningful changes.

I also encourage every Unit to identify the issues affecting veterans and their families within their own communities. Foster open discussions, thoughtful debate, and collaboration to develop legislative solutions that address those needs. Together, through education, advocacy, and engagement, we can ensure that the voices of veterans and their families continue to be heard and that meaningful legislation moves forward.

Questions to think about and report on:

Committee-Specific Reporting Guidelines:

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) 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 were their successes.

2026-2027 Legislative Committee

ALA Department of Florida Legislative Committee Chair

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26-27 Legislative Program Awards Deadlines and Submission Requirements

All award submissions must include a narrative (either a PDF or Microsoft Word document) explaining why the department or unit you're nominating should receive the award. The narrative can also be the department chair's report. You may also upload other supporting documentation that will give the committee a full picture of the important mission works your department or unit has accomplished this year. These files can be photos (JPG, JPEG or TIFs -- no larger than 14MB) or PDF documents. If you have more than three supporting files, please email the committee email address listed in the form. Please submit pictures separate from your narrative/report DO NOT EMBED the pictures within your report.

Here are the national awards for this committee:

Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Legislative Program (per division)

- All unit entries must be submitted via [electronic form](#) by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.

Note: You will receive confirmation when your award is submitted. National Awards Form

Link: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>

Department Award: Best Department Legislative Program (per division)

- All department entries must be submitted via [electronic form](#) by 5 p.m. EST on June 1. Note: You will receive confirmation when your award is submitted.

National Awards Form Link: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>

Please note – when applicable, unit and department deadlines differ.

Questions? Contact legislative@ALAforVeterans.org

Department of Florida Legislative Award

The Legislative Program that most exemplifies dedication, leadership, and commitment to fulfilling our mission will be honored with a special award at the Department Convention. This recognition celebrates the outstanding efforts of those whose work inspires others and strengthens our shared commitment to serving our veterans, their families, and our communities.