

Legislative Promotion October 2024

Joyce Bilyeu, Legislative Charman

As we approach the pivotal 2024 presidential election, we must make our voices heard on behalf of our veterans. This election year presents a unique opportunity to engage with candidates and advocate for the issues that matter most to our community.

With just a month until November, now is the time to educate ourselves about veterans' issues, including the key legislative priorities outlined in the VFW Legislative Priority Goals brochure. Familiarizing ourselves with these goals will empower us to communicate effectively with candidates and voters alike.

We encourage you to share your knowledge with others—reach out to candidates, attend town hall meetings, and consider hosting events to discuss veterans' issues. Simple conversations can significantly raise awareness about the challenges our veterans face and the importance of legislative action.

It is essential to recognize how our participation in the voting process directly impacts veterans' issues. Every vote counts, and early voting provides a unique opportunity to ensure that the voices of our veterans are heard loud and clear.

1. Empowering Veterans' Advocacy: By voting early, we can make our stance on veterans' issues clear to candidates and elected officials. When we show up at the polls, we send a powerful message that supporting our veterans is a priority. This can influence the policies they promote and the attention they give to veteran-related legislation.

2. Ensuring Access and Support: Many veterans face challenges on election day, from health issues to transportation difficulties. Early voting offers a more flexible option, allowing veterans to cast their ballots at a time that suits their needs. By encouraging early voting, we help ensure that every veteran can exercise their right to vote without obstacles.

3. Raising Awareness: Engaging in early voting also provides an opportunity to discuss the specific issues that affect our veterans, such as healthcare, benefits, and support programs. Conversations around these topics during the early voting period can elevate awareness in the community and motivate others to advocate for veterans' rights.

4. Maximizing Participation: Early voting can reduce the stress and chaos often associated with election day. By promoting early voting, we can help increase overall voter turnout, ensuring that veterans' voices are well represented in the electoral process.

5. Building Momentum for Change: The more we engage with candidates and their platforms before election day, the better we can hold them accountable once they're in office. Early voting allows us to actively participate in shaping the future of veterans' affairs by choosing representatives who prioritize our community's needs.

It is essential that we actively participate in the voting process. Ensure you're registered, inform fellow veterans about voting options, and consider organizing voter information clinics to assist them.

As we move forward this election season, let's commit to getting out and voting early. Together, we can advocate for the rights and needs of our veterans and make a lasting impact on their future. Your vote is your voice—let it be heard!

Together, we can make a significant impact this election year. Let's unite our efforts and ensure that our voices resonate loud and clear this November!

Awards for Auxiliaries

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event collaborating with the VFW Post connecting members with local lawmakers.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event that collaborated with the VFW Post connecting members with local lawmakers.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from the National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

VFW Auxiliaries must send this completed entry form to the Department Legislative Chairman by March 31, 2025, for judging.

VFW Auxiliary Name: _____ VFW
Auxiliary No: _____ Department of: _____

Describe the activity and/or event that was collaborated with the VFW Post connecting members with local lawmakers. (e.g., flyers, brochures, social media posts, newsletters, e-newsletters, handouts, photos, links to videos, etc.)