LEGISLATIVE AGENDAS





WHAT IS A LEGISLATIVE AGENDA?

A legislative agenda is a one-page document outlining legislative priorities. It gives an overview of what you hope to accomplish during a legislative session. Many variables go into determining a legislative agenda for your state.

SETTING A LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Only the State Legislative Committee may set the legislative agenda for the state. This is normally done by identifying what are likely to be major issues during the legislative session and prioritizing what must be accomplished. If you have any previous years' agendas, it can be helpful to start by identifying bills that were unsuccessful in the past but still worthy of being prioritized.

Priorities can be set based on variables like:

- Most pressing issues: What are families struggling with and which bills address it?
- What is likely to succeed: Understanding the makeup of your legislature and leadership's priorities can help you avoid the frustration of prioritizing great bills that have no chance of passing.

While legislative agendas are limited, the State Legislative Committee can watch any number of bills. Categorize bills by those you will likely support, oppose, or watch. When narrowing the list to set your agenda, remember many measure the success of legislative efforts by how many of the bills on your agenda get passed.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDAS MUST BE RUN THROUGH NATIONAL BEFORE BEING PUBLISHED. THEY CAN BE SUBMITTED ON THE CHAPTER CHAIR PORTAL.

EFFECTIVE LEGISLATIVE AGENDAS

- Are a single page, no more.
- List no less than 3 bills and no more than 10.
- Organize bills under defined issues like transparency, accountability, parental rights, school choice, increased opportunity, etc.

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

- State logo
- 'Legislative Agenda'
- Year
- Principles and the bills that fall under them
- Brief explanations
- Bill numbers & titles
- Name and contact information for the State Legislative Committee Chair
- Our website

EXAMPLE

To assist you, we have provided an example legislative agenda as a reference. It can be found on the Chapter Chair Portal.

HELPFUL HINT

Set a timeline for your legislative activity using the legislative calendar. Things to include:

- Peak time for suggesting and researching model legislation (when the legislature is not in session)
- Time and frequency for meetings of the Legislative Committee to assess filed bills
- Deadline to file bills
- When you will hold a vote on the legislative agenda
- Rally/Legislative Day event