WILL ADVOCATE TO END HOMELESSNESS
WHY AND HOW YOU SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN PUBLIC POLICY

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AZCEH Statewide Conference to End Homelessness
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Overview

• Why we do advocacy
• How a bill becomes a law
• Homeless specific advocacy
• Ways to get involved
• Voter engagement
• Advocacy commitment
Welcome

• Who are we?
• Who are you?
• Why are we all here?
• What do you hope to learn?
Why we do Advocacy
“It was once said that the moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped.”

-Hubert Humphrey
“The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life.” –Jane Addams
Remember your Civics Class?

• Most of us don’t.
• But we may remember…
How a Bill becomes a Law

1. Filing
2. First Read
3. Committee
4. First House Action ("House of Origin", SB or HB)
How a Bill becomes a Law

5. Committee Reports

6. Consent Calendar

7. Debate (The COW)

8. COW votes

9. Formal votes (Third Read)
How a Bill becomes a Law

10. Second House Action
   • Go back thru steps 1-9

11. Un-amended bills go directly to Governor

12. Amended bills go back to House of Origin
   • Amendment accepted, goes to Governor
   • Amendment rejected, goes to conference committee
How a Bill becomes a Law

13. Conference committee may
   • Accept as passed in house of origin or second house
   • Create a new version with amendments from the conference committee members

14. Conference Report Action
   • Submitted to both houses
   • Voice vote in both houses
   • Final vote in at least one house
How a Bill becomes a Law

15. Bill goes to Governor
16. Sign, veto, or filed without signature
17. Chapter number given

• It’s a LAW!
Why do I need to know this?

- Basically, because we do different things at different points in the process
  - If a bill is stuck in committee, you will call or email the committee chair or members
  - When a bill is heard in committee, you will “sign in” in support or opposition to the bill
  - When a bill passes out of committee, you thank the chair and committee members
  - And then in COW or Third Read, you contact your legislators in support or opposition to the bill
Got the picture?
• “It isn’t enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn’t enough to believe in it. One must work at it.” – Eleanor Roosevelt
What Non-Profits Can Do

Nonprofits “are allowed to conduct nonpartisan activities that educate the public and help them participate in the electoral process (such as) voter education, voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives and candidate forums.”

— IRS Office of Exempt Organizations
Making Friends and Getting Things Done

• Build a relationship with your legislators—state and federal
  • When not in session, write them cards, letters, and email telling them about your concerns
  • Like their Facebook pages
  • Send them interesting newspaper articles or recent research
  • Every story is local—keep it district or county specific
Making Friends and Getting Things Done

• Offer to help them on their campaign

AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN

• Walk neighborhoods
• Put up yard signs
• Make phone calls
• Donate money to their campaign—even small amounts count

• START TODAY!
Making Friends and Getting Things Done

- Offer to help them understand the issues in their district
- Provide them with information, data, research, stories about your issues
- Make the issues local and personal
- This is not lobbying, this is information sharing and education
Making Friends and Getting Things Done

• During legislative session, keep up the conversation with them
  • Many advocacy organizations have e-mail alert lists that anyone can join—respond to the updates, alerts, and action items by quickly contacting your representatives
  • Thank them early and often for their support
“The most effective lobbyist I will ever face is a registered voter from my district who comes to me with a well-documented explanation of how the legislation will affect him.”

Charles Hebner, Delaware House of Delegates
Vulnerable families, youth and the elderly are the fastest growing segment of homelessness.

Inadequate housing supply, lack of safe affordable childcare, and low family incomes make the task of finding affordable housing and decent paying jobs almost impossible for families.

Nearly 36% of the adult homeless population in AZ are 45 years or older. Declining health among the aging homeless is a critical concern as emergency shelters and transitional housing programs are not equipped nor qualified to meet their medical needs.
Ending Homelessness Advocacy

- Advocate for the restoration of the state housing trust fund so that every Arizonan has the opportunity to live in a safe and affordable place to call home.
Homeless Specific Advocacy

• Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness legislative priorities
  • State Housing Trust Fund
  • Increase public awareness
  • Preserve DES Coordinated Homeless Programs
  • Increase State Lottery Funding
  • Preserve vital social welfare programs
  • Law enforcement training to prevent arrest of homeless people
    • Reduce prison populations
    • Reinstate child care subsidies
    • Increase funding for substance abuse prevention and treatment
    • Increase the minimum wage to a living wage
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Charles Hebner, Delaware House of Delegates
Why Get Involved?

• If you are not at the table, you are on the menu.
Why do we need to Vote?

• The fight for the right to vote in the United States…
Voter Engagement

• Credibility
• Access
• Commitment to everyone
• Permanence
• Nonpartisan
Voter Engagement

- Voter Registration
- Voter Education
- Voter Mobilization
Voter Engagement

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Voter Engagement

• 501(c)(3) Nonprofits can:
  • **Register** voters
  • **Educate** voters on issues without telling them who to vote for
  • **Endorse** ballot propositions
  • Remind voters **about** voting and help them get to the polls
Voter Engagement

• 501c3 Nonprofit **cannot:**

  • Endorse or oppose candidates
  • Use their **resources** to support or oppose candidates
  • Make a **contribution** to a candidate
  • **Rate** candidates on issues
ARIZONA VOTER REGISTRATION FORM
FORMULARIO DE INSCRIPCIÓN DE VOTANTE EN ARIZONA

Questions: For questions regarding voter registration, call your County Recorder

You Can Use This Form To:

- Register to vote in the state of Arizona.
- Let us know that your name, address or party affiliation has changed.

To Register To Vote in Arizona You Must (Qualifications)

- Be a United States citizen (see citizenship requirements on back).
- Be a resident of Arizona and the county listed on your registration.
- Be 18 years of age or more or on or before the day of the next regular General Election.

WARNING: Executing a false registration is a Class 6 Misdemeanor.

You Cannot Register To Vote in Arizona if:

- You have been convicted of a felony and have not yet had your civil rights restored.
- You have been adjudged incompetent.

How To Register To Vote:

To be eligible for an election, you must register to vote at least 26 days before the election.
- You can mail or hand deliver your completed form to your County Recorder’s office.
- If you mail the form, it must be received by the County Recorder no later than 5 days after the last day to register to vote in that election or be postmarked 29 days or more before an election and received by the County Recorder by 7 PM on election day.
- Your County Recorder’s office will mail you a proof of registration within 4-6 weeks.

Citizens With Disabilities May:
- Contact the County Recorder/Elections Department for information about early voting, accessible voting, or other accommodations.

PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT

A complete voter registration form must contain proof of citizenship or the form will be rejected. If you have an Arizona driver license or nonoperating identification license issued after October 1, 1996, this will serve as proof of citizenship. If not, you must enclose proof of citizenship with the form. Please refer to the back of the form for a list of acceptable documents to establish your citizenship.

PERMANENT EARLY VOTING LIST (PEVL) VOTE BY MAIL

Any voter may request to be included on the “Permanent Early Voting List” (PEVL) in order to automatically receive an early ballot for all elections he or she is eligible to participate. To be on the list, the address where you receive mail must be in the county where you are registered to vote. Military and overseas voters are also eligible to be on the PEVL using their overseas mailing address. To automatically receive an early ballot, mark “Yes” in box 1. If “Yes” is marked in box 1, you will be added to the PEVL. If “No” is marked in box 1, your name will not be added to the PEVL and will be removed from the PEVL if previously included on the list. If neither “Yes” nor “No” are marked in box 1, your record will remain unchanged as it relates to being on the PEVL.

USE BLACK PEN – COMPLETELY FILL OUT FORM USE PLUMA DE TINTA NEGRA – LLENE EL FORMULARIO COMPLETAMENTE

[Formularios completos en el reverso del formulario]
“We do not have a democracy of the majority. We have a democracy of the majority who participate.”
Thomas Jefferson
Important Dates to Remember

• Not too early to start thinking about the 2016 elections!
  • Last day to register to vote for the presidential preference election is 2/22/16
  • Presidential preference election is 3/22/16
  • Last day to register to vote in the primary election is 8/1/16
  • Primary election is 8/30/16
  • Last day to register to vote in the general election is 10/10/16
  • General election is 11/8/16
So, how can I make a difference?

• Register to vote AND vote!

• Know your legislators and candidates

• Don’t know who they are?
  • Go here [www.azleg.gov](http://www.azleg.gov) for legislators
  • Go here for candidate information
    • [http://www.azsos.gov/elections](http://www.azsos.gov/elections)
Voting Resources

- Nonprofit Vote
  - http://www.nonprofitvote.org/all-resources/
  - http://www.nonprofitvote.org/states/arizona/
Grassroots Networks

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead
Next Steps?

• Ask questions
• Be an active, engaged citizen
• Get involved
• Have fun
Commitment

• What are you going to do to make your community a better place to live for all?
• Make your commitment TODAY!
• Questions? Just ask!
  • Bahney Dedolph, bdedolph@azcouncil.com
  • Sam Richard, sam@pafcoalition.org
  • Joan Serviss, jserviss@azceh.org
Questions? Comments?