

BOOK OF REPORTS

LEGISLATIVE 2025 – 2026

The American Legion's grassroots advocacy continues to be the most effective way to support the legislative agenda for the 119th Congress, 2nd Session. Arizona Units were encouraged to contact U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives, State and Local Officials, and the White House through online campaigns, mailed letters, phone calls, and direct engagement. Members were reminded that their voices, individually and collectively, remain essential to advancing legislation that protects and strengthens the lives of veterans, active-duty service members, and their families.

REPORTING PARTICIPATION

At year-end, **36 of 85 Units** submitted reports—an increase over last year and a positive sign of growing awareness of the Legislative Program.

- **9 Units** actively worked the Legislative Program
- **27 Units** submitted reports with no activity
- **3 reports** were received after the May 1 deadline

Of the 36 reports reviewed, seven included narratives for Department awards. These were judged by three individuals with no affiliation to participating Units to ensure fairness and impartiality. Units were actively engaged in the legislative process in a variety of ways.

This year's reporting reflects a continued effort to educate Units on the importance of documenting legislative activity. Even Units with no activity were encouraged to submit reports so the Department can accurately represent statewide engagement.

Some Units may not submit letters but remain active in other parts of the legislative process, such as voting and meeting with State and Local officials.

COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION

Legislative information was shared regularly through the Department website and social media, including:

- Call-to-action alerts
- Links to the *Dispatch*
- Monthly bulletins with legislative updates
- Guidance on contacting Arizona Senators and Representatives

The Legislative Chair communicated with several District Presidents to encourage reporting and promote member engagement. Members were urged to subscribe to Grassroots Advocacy to stay informed about legislation supported by The American Legion.

Throughout the year, Units were reminded that legislative advocacy is not limited to letter-writing. Staying informed, sharing information with fellow members, and participating in civic processes are all vital components of the program. This emphasis helped strengthen understanding of the program's purpose and broaden participation.

ADVOCACY ACTIVITY

Arizona members demonstrated strong engagement throughout the year:

- **1504** online grassroots letters
- **534** letters mailed via USPS
- **218** other contacts (visits, calls, direct emails)
- **1307** replies received from U.S. Senators, Representatives, State and Local Officials
- 6 replies received from the White House

Total Letters sent : 2256

Last Year: 1828

Increase: 23%

This represents a significant increase in legislative activity, with the majority occurring through online grassroots advocacy. The high number of replies received demonstrates that Arizona members are not only contacting their elected officials but are also receiving meaningful engagement in return. This level of responsiveness reflects positively on the Department's visibility and credibility with elected officials.

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

In April, a Department-wide challenge encouraged Units and Districts to contact legislators between April 1–15. One Unit alone completed **over 100 campaigns** during this period, demonstrating exceptional commitment.

Members also connected personally with State and Local officials at rallies, community events, and public forums. These interactions helped strengthen relationships with policymakers and increased awareness of veteran-related issues at the local level.

VOTING ENGAGEMENT

9 Units promoted voter participation by:

- Encouraging members to vote
- Assisting with mail-in ballots

- Serving as poll workers
- Meeting with elected officials on legislation related to veterans and their communities

These efforts supported civic engagement across the Department and reinforced the importance of participating in the democratic process.

NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

In February, the American Legion Department of Arizona and two ALA representatives—a Unit member and the Department VA&R Chairman—participated in the National Conference in Washington, D.C. They joined national delegates in visiting Capitol Hill to advocate for legislation supported by The American Legion. Delegates met with congressional offices to discuss key legislative priorities, including veteran healthcare access, mental health support, and benefits modernization. These visits reinforced the importance of coordinated national advocacy and strengthened Arizona’s presence at the federal level.

CONCLUSION

Through strong grassroots efforts, the Department of Arizona played a vital role in assisting to advance legislation that benefits veterans, active-duty military, and their families. Members will continue to write letters, make calls, and advocate as needed to ensure veterans receive the support they have earned.

The Department remains committed to expanding legislative education, increasing Unit participation, and strengthening communication with elected officials. With continued dedication, Arizona will remain a powerful voice for those who have served.

For God and Country,

Kathy Amery, Legislative Chairman 2025-2026