



INTHRIVE

ADVOCACY SOLUTIONS

Monthly Digest: March2024
Your source for policy and advocacy guidance.

What's inside?

 *The Power of Planning Ahead*

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by **David Smith** on March 5, 2024

As we approach the first day of Spring the states with shorter sessions (like Virginia) are wrapping up their legislative calendar. Advocacy has shifted from the state house to the governor's mansion. While it might not be the best time to start recruiting legislators to carry legislation for you in 2025 (they need a break, too!), it is the perfect time to start planning ahead!

THIS MONTH'S TOPIC
The Power of Planning Ahead



How important is planning ahead? I had several clients ask me for help building coalitions to stop legislation. One came to me in December, the other in February. While we made progress on both initiatives the project that started in December was much more successful than the one that started in February. Why? Because I had more time to build out a coalition. But, how much more successful would those efforts have been if we'd started over the summer...or even after Election Day?

Building legislative momentum-on the grassstops or the grassroots takes time. You need to identify key allies. You've got to build relationships with those people (or find someone that already has relationships with them). You'll be explaining why they should take a stand and convincing organizations to include your policy in their priorities. (The bigger, and more influential, the organization is the more levels of approval you'll likely need to get and the more time it will take.)

In states without an election this November you know who your legislators will be and who will be on the committees you need to influence to get your passion turned into policy. Even if you are in one of the many states with elections this November you still have a pretty good idea of who's going to be returning come January. Take the time now to strategize: Who is with me? Who do I need to win over? What are my major obstacles? What are my advantages?

As the 2024 state legislative season winds down, what do you need to do to plan ahead for the 2025 session so you can get those legislative wins?

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🤔 If you're looking to develop a new strategy or build new coalitions to turn your passion into policy email David Smith at David@InthriveAdvocacy.com to see how we can partner to achieve your goals!

Looking for more content? Follow Inthrive: Advocacy Solutions on [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#):

[LinkedIn Virginia Policy Recaps](#)

[Better Advocacy in 10 Minutes or Less on YouTube](#)

Upcoming Events:

Back From Richmond

SALT's (Social Action Linking Together) annual General Assembly wrap up with Northern Virginia legislators and Virginia policy leaders is happening on April 13th at The Oak Room in the Lubber Run Community Center in Arlington, VA, from 1pm-3pm. [Follow SALT on Facebook](#) for details about keynote speakers and legislators attending.

Inthrive Film Festival-NOVA

Inthrive Film Festival celebrates the voices and talents of folks who survived incarceration. The festival is coming to Mason Square's VanMetre Auditorium in Arlington, VA, on Sunday, April 14, from noon-5pm. Join us as we screen films created by or featuring the authentic voices of incarceration survivors, hear from people who have gone from incarceration to thriving, and meet nonprofit and business leaders that are removing barriers to successful reentry from incarceration. Interested in participating or getting your free tickets? Check out the [website](#) and email info@inthrivefilmfestival.org for more details!

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