



ad·vo·ca·cy *noun* [ad-vuh-kuh-see]:

The act or process of supporting a cause or proposal.



EDUCATE

Understanding issues, policies and legislation through *partnerships* and *collaboration*

Know the Lyrics

Collaborate with Others

- **League of Women Voters:**

- <https://www.lwvmd.org/>
- <https://www.lwv.org/elections/vote411>
- <http://www.lwvmocomd.org/>

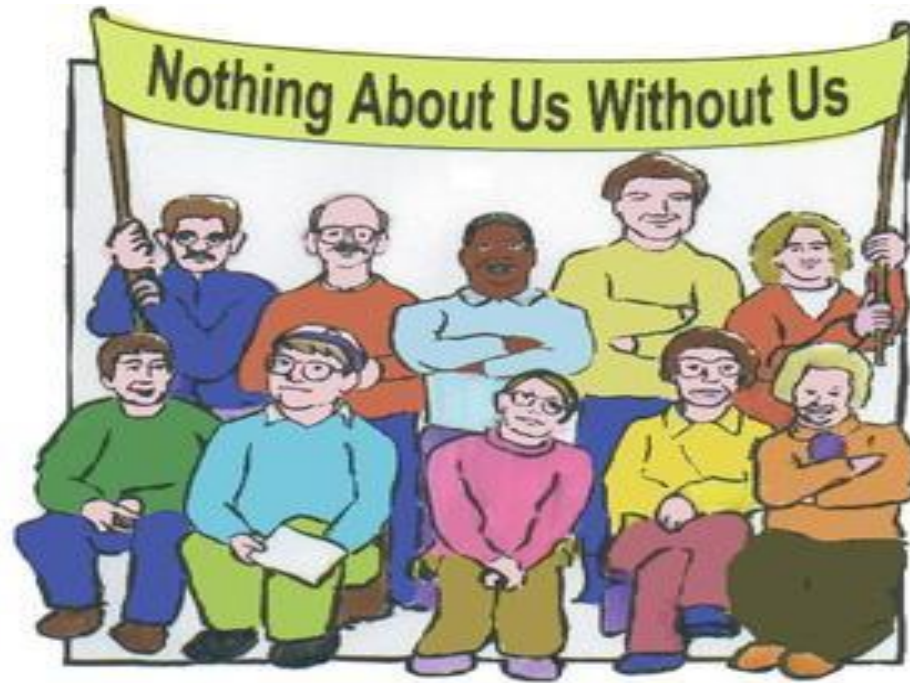


- **Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW):**

- <https://mdlegagendaforwomen.org/>

- **Maryland Commission for Women:**

- <http://dhr.maryland.gov/maryland-commission-women/>
- <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw/wlb.html>



ENGAGE

Getting involved in the legislative process

Join the Choir

Consistent Engagement

- **Voter Registration:**
 - Target Constituencies
 - Target Locations
- **Meet Legislators:**
 - Public Meetings
 - Community Events
 - Invited Events
- **Get Out the Vote (GOTV):**
 - Voting Calendar
 - Candidate and Ballot Information





EMPOWER

Influencing policy and legislation

Make Your Voice Count

Coordinated Advocacy

- **Advocate for Legislation:**

- Letter Writing, Phone Calls, Visit Legislators
- Testify at Hearing, Attend Rallies

- **Influence Policy:**

- Commissions and Special Committees
- Community Boards, Civic Associations
- State and Local Party

- **Make Laws:**

- Volunteer or Work for Legislators
- Volunteer or Work for Non-profits and Civic Organizations



Follow Status of Legislation

- Daily Record: <http://thedailyrecord.com/>
- Maryland General Assembly Website:
<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frm1st.aspx?tab=home>
- Montgomery County's State Delegation's Website:
www.montgomerycountydelegation.com
- Montgomery County (MD) Council:
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/leg/bill/index.html>

Sample Letter to a Legislator

SAMPLE FORMAT OF LETTER TO A LEGISLATOR

Date

The Honorable (first and last names) _____ (Office Address)

RE: (Refer to the bill number and/or title)

Dear (title) (last name):

Introduction

- **Purpose of Letter**
- **Identify yourself as a registered voter/constituent**
- **Request action on the legislation**

Body (Limit to 2 or 3 points)

- **Rationale/Supporting data**
- **Findings of authoritative entities**
- **Reports by government organizations, advocacy groups or scholars**

Closing

- **Thank the legislator for his/her time and consideration of your views.**
- **Request timely reply.**
- **Remind legislator that you will continue monitoring the issue.**

Sincerely,

(signature)

Your name, printed Complete mailing address

Commissions and Boards

Maryland State:

- <https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/26/excom/html/00list.html>
- <https://govappointments.maryland.gov/>

Montgomery County:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/boards/list.html>

Non-Profits and Civic Association

Maryland State:

- <https://greatnonprofits.org/state/Maryland>
- <http://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/Nonprofits/default.aspx>

Montgomery County:

- <https://www.nonprofitmoco.org/members/>
- <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/government/community.html>

Maryland State Party

State Level

- <https://www.mddems.org/>
- <http://www.mdgop.org/>
- <http://www.mdgreens.org/>



Montgomery County – Central Committee

- <https://mcdcc.org/>
- <https://www.mcgop.com/>
- <http://www.montgomerycountygreenparty.org/>

Get Involved in Annapolis

- **High School Page Program**

- Maryland High School Seniors
- Work two (2) non-consecutive weeks
- Pay \$50 per day; lodging is \$22 per day
- Apply via High School in September

- **College Intern Program**

- Work day – 9:00am – 5:00pm
- Work 90-day Session
- Range from \$2,000 per session (5 days per week) to \$ 850 per session (2 days per week)
- Apply via MGA Intern Office at 410-946-5128; <http://dls.maryland.gov/careers/legislative-intern-program/>

- **Legacy Leadership Public Policy Program**

- Maryland Residents aged 50+
- Complete 8 week training
- Work days vary based upon position
- Apply via University of Maryland, School of Public Policy: <https://sph.umd.edu/content/community/hlsa/ca/legacy-leadership-institute-public-policy>

Ways to Organize

- **Committee of 6-8 persons focused on Legislative Affairs**
 - Divide and Conquer with focus on *Educate, Engage, Empower* Social Actions
 - Encourage group members to participate in at least one of each Social Action categories
- **Create a monthly calendar with activities for each Social Action category**
 - Must Attend WLB, MLAW Day in Annapolis, County Budget Hearings, Legislator's Community Briefing
- **Form External Partnerships and Join key organizations**
- **Leverage internal skills and “know-how” to recommend members for Commissions and Boards**
- **Budget for memberships, newsletters, and networking activities**

BE A VOICE

