

September/October 2024-2025

## Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF) Bulletin Department of MO Legislative 2024-2025 Promotional Material

Monica R Schroeder 6617 Hwy P Westphalia MO 65085 moaux8045@gmail.com

573.680.5738

# How to Participate in Candidate Forums

Members can make a difference in any election by getting involved in the political process. Hold voter registration drives, town hall meetings, and other events featuring candidates for public office. Veterans and Auxiliary members are a strong voting block and a constituency that most candidates want on their side. As we approach the next election cycle, here are a few items to keep mind as you get involved and attend or host candidate functions and town hall meetings:

#### DO's

Do attend candidate town hall meetings and other events and ask candidates where they stand on our issues.

Do set up voter registration drives /Get Out the Vote Campaigns on the local level.

Representation Day to help the elderly and disabled get to the voting booth.

Do support and work for your favorite candidates as an individual voting constituent.

Do wear your VFW/Auxiliary cap/shirt at public events such as town halls, rallies, forums, or debates.

#### DON'Ts

Do not endorse candidates on behalf of the VFW/Auxiliary National Organization, Department, District or Post.

Do not wear your VFW/Auxiliary cap/shirt when actively campaigning for a candidate, such as soliciting donations or knocking on doors asking people to pledge their vote for a candidate. The key is to stay informed on veterans' issues and use your influence to urge new candidates and those up for reelection to support veterans.

It does not matter which candidates you support if they know you are a VFW/Auxiliary member and are concerned about your fellow veterans, service members, and their families.

#### Grassroots Efforts in the State of MO

Grassroots support refers to the organic, bottom-up backing of our Veterans. This is deeply rooted in Post and Districts. It relies on the active participation of our Auxiliaries to dedicate their time and energy because they believe in the support of Veterans issues. Engagement is the cornerstone of any grassroots effort. It involves actively participating in or sponsoring local events, town halls and meetings, and engaging in public forums where our state legislatures will hear your voice in support of Veterans. Ask them the tough questions, fully funding of the Missouri Veterans Commission, support of bills by cosponsoring, movement of bills through committees. This not only increases your visibility but also helps the community in understanding the efforts.



#### Dates to Remember:

September 2, 2024 – Labor Day

September 11, 2024 – Patriots Day/1st Responders

September 18, 2024 - Air Force Birthday

September 20, 2024 – National POW/MIA Recognition

September 29, 2024 – Gold Star Mother's Day

October 13, 2024 – Navy Birthday

October 14, 2024 – Columbus Day

October 31, 2024 - Halloween

## Legislative Resources

VFW Website: www.vfw.org

MO VFW Auxiliary Website: www.vfwauxmo.org

VFW Legislative Priorities:

https://www.vfw.org/legislativepriorities

VFW Legislative Priorities including VFW 2024

**Priority Goals:** 

https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/national-

legislative-service

VFW Action Corps Weekly:

https://www.vfw.org/actioncorpsweekly

All Federal Bills Currently Supported by VFW:

https://ssl.capwiz.com/vfw/issues/bills/

Federal Bills: <a href="https://www.congress.gov">https://www.congress.gov</a>

US Senators: www.senate.gov

US Representatives: <a href="https://www.house.gov">www.house.gov</a>

MO Senators:

https://www.senate.mo.gov/Senators/Index MO Representatives: https://house.mo.gov

MAVO Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=10006

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# Item of Interest

VFW Action Alerts- Of the total number of VFW and Auxiliary, family, and friends, only 360,000 are signed up. Of those only 1% are responding to these "Alerts" and acting. This is Grassroots Advocacy, and you need to "Make Your Voices Heard on Capitol Hill" at the national level.

## **Action Corps**

Sign up for Action Corps so you stay current on

key legislation.

Text "VFW" to 50457

Visit website: <a href="https:/votervoice.net/VFW/Register">https:/votervoice.net/VFW/Register</a>

Scan the QR Code





"Helping Our Veterans by Bridging the Gap"
"From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending
Service to Our Veterans"