



# State Advocacy Educational Toolkit

*A special thank you to the AUA's Policy and Advocacy Resident Work Group for their leadership in developing this toolkit.*

## INTRODUCTION

Getting involved in advocacy doesn't need to be difficult. In fact, you can get started from right where you're sitting. State legislatures introduce and pass heaps of legislation each session that may impact your practice, education, patients, or urology as a profession. Unfortunately, state advocacy is often overlooked in lieu of getting involved at the federal level.

The purpose of this toolkit is to provide realistic and actionable ways for you to get involved in urologic advocacy at the state level. In this toolkit, you'll start with the basics, like registering to vote and identifying your state representatives, and eventually find resources for all levels of advocacy engagement. Your time and energy spent in advocacy can have great impact at the state level.

## BACK TO BASICS

### Register to vote

The National Association of Secretaries of State has a plethora of voting-related resources for each state. Check out the links below for specific info or visit their [voting site here for more information](#).

- Not sure if you're registered to vote where you live? [Check here](#).
- If you're not registered, [get to it here!](#)
- Find your polling place [at this link](#).

**Don't forget to VOTE!** Vote in general and mid-term elections. Why? When you reach out to a legislator the first thing their staff is going to do

is see if you vote. Your vote is more valuable than money to a legislator because that's how they keep their job.

## IDENTIFY YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Great, you're registered and know where to vote! Next, it's crucial to know who already represents you. Finding your state representatives and federal elected officials is pretty simple.

You can also sign up for your representatives' email newsletters to get news about important issues, events/town halls, and other updates.

### State Officials

Utilize the links below to find your various elected state officials.

- [Governor](#)
- [State Legislature](#)
  - Note: This link will take you to the website for your specific state legislature. Each site typically has a "find my representative" feature.

### Federal Officials

Utilize the links below to find your senators and representative in Congress.

- [U.S. Senators](#)
- [U.S. Representative](#)

### Local Officials

If you're curious, you can also find your local officials.

- [Mayor](#)
- [County Executive  
Local Government](#)



## JOIN THE CROWD

Advocacy is really the art of lending your voice and story; you certainly do not need to reinvent the wheel. The AUA, medical societies, patient advocacy organizations, and other groups likely have ongoing advocacy efforts for a variety of health policy issues.

The AUA is proud to have our State Advocacy Committee tracking major state legislation and issues all across the United States. The State Advocacy Committee regularly develops email campaigns AUA members can join to contact their state representatives about specific issues.

You can also do a quick Google search for groups who are active in your state and see if you can add your voice and story to their efforts.

### Consider:

- The [AUA's State Advocacy Committee and webpage](#)
- Your AUA Section's Health Policy Committee/ Council
  - Section Administrators:
    - Mid-Atlantic AUA: [Danielle Wagner](#)
    - New England AUA: [Sarah Boardman](#)
    - New York AUA: [Michele Paoli](#)
    - North Central AUA: [Samantha Florine](#)
    - Northeastern AUA: [Samantha Florine](#)
    - South Central AUA: [Samantha Florine](#)
    - Southeastern AUA: [Samantha Florine](#)
    - Western AUA: [Chris DeSantis](#)
- Your state's urological society
- Your state's medical society
- Local and national patient advocacy groups

## LEVEL UP YOUR ADVOCACY

### MEET YOUR LEGISLATORS

Relationships are the key to effective advocacy. Meeting your legislators, introducing yourself, offering your expertise, and getting face time with them are crucial to establishing relationships with the lawmakers in your state.

There are many ways to meet with your legislator:

- Attending in-district town halls
- Attending campaign fundraisers
- Visiting your legislators' district offices
- Visiting your legislators' offices in the Capitol

If you would like assistance in setting up a meeting with your state or federal elected officials, don't hesitate to reach out to the AUA's Legislative & Political Affairs team at [LegislativeAffairs@AUAnet.org](mailto:LegislativeAffairs@AUAnet.org).

### KEEP TRACK OF LEGISLATION

Stay on top of pertinent legislation being introduced in your state. There may be opportunities to submit testimony or to simply urge your representatives to support or oppose certain bills.

- Bookmark the [AUA State Advocacy Bill Tracking Map](#) to see what urology-impacting bills are currently at play in your state.

### RECRUIT YOUR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES

You don't have to do it alone. You already know you can join forces with our coalitions, societies, and advocacy groups, but don't forget to recruit your friends and colleagues in your efforts. Forward along advocacy updates or action alerts



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you receive. The more advocates contacting their elected officials – the better!

## GET ONLINE

Do not underestimate the power of social media. Social media is a great tool for contacting your elected officials, getting friends and colleagues involved, staying in the know about advocacy, and spreading the word.

### Using social media:

- Follow your elected officials (both state and federal)
- Tag your elected officials when promoting a bill
  - See if there is a social media toolkit available for the bill
- Tag your friends and colleagues when you Tweet your officials
- Use hashtags to generate awareness and increase visibility of your efforts

### Additional AUA advocacy resources

- [AUA Advocacy 101 Webinar Series](#)
- [AUA Policy and Advocacy Brief](#) (all AUA advocacy updates included here)
- [AUAPAC website](#) – Learn more about the AUAPAC, who we give to and why
- [Annual Urology Advocacy Summit](#) – multi-day event held in Washington, DC each year with CME, Hill visits, and advocacy-focused sessions

## CONCLUSION

No advocacy action is too small to make an impact. There is no need to overextend yourself! Start where you are, do what you can, and encourage others to join you. Your service in advocacy is always appreciated.

If you're ready to do more in advocacy or if you have any questions at all about this toolkit, please do not hesitate to reach out to [LegislativeAffairs@AUAnet.org](mailto:LegislativeAffairs@AUAnet.org).