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## The Advocacy Institute is

## committed to transforming the

## legislative landscape in New

# York for Justice and Dignity.

## **The AI Team**















# Approach

Deliver trainings & tools, build networks, and develop leadership to win legislative campaigns and to build more power and organizing infrastructure along the way.

### **Statewide Membership**



# The Challenge

- Government is entrenched, <u>opaque</u>, hard to navigate
- Legislative goals <u>require specialized abilities</u>
- Institutional memory is lost when teams use <u>inefficient, ad hoc tools</u> for research and execution
- Advocates have a wealth of knowledge <u>ready to</u> <u>be organized</u>, modularized and effectively shared

## **Goals for the Training**

- Understand the State political landscape and legislative process
- Become familiar with government players and their staff
- Deepen each participant's ability to engage in effective and efficient advocacy

# Legislative Advocacy

- What is advocacy?
- What is legislative advocacy?
- What is lobbying?

- Advocacy
  - "Speaking up for yourself or someone else in any situation, to someone who has power over that situation." May influence public opinion and public policy.
- Legislative advocacy
  - Lobbying and other activities, such as media advocacy, education, and grassroots organizing.
- Lobbying
  - Stating a position on specific legislation to legislators and/or asking them to support your position. Lobbying is classified as direct or grassroots.
- Resource: Lawyers Alliance of New York

## **Goal: Change Agency Behavior**

#### Executive

Implements the law

through Agencies

Legislature Creates and amends the law

#### Judiciary Interprets the law

through Courts

# Why Are We Advocating at the State Level?



## **State & Local Examples**

- What's a policy outcome that we can make happen :
  - locally without permission from Albany?
  - locally with permission from Albany?
  - statewide?

## **Power and Authority**



Ultimate, but limited

Everything not specifically carved out by the Federal Government

Gets what the State hasn't spoken to

## **Key Take-aways**

- Our ultimate goal is to change agency behavior
- We focus our advocacy on the state level because the state has the most power and authority

# Legislative Timelines

#### State Level Civic Engagement Timeline











#### New York State Legislative Session Calendar January — June 2018



The New York State legislative session calendar establishes a schedule for the 2016 legislative exection and provides cates important to the legislative process. The easient calendar is introduct to altord Members lexiblity in concluding legislative business in Abary and parting activities within their forme distribut. The session calendar will toater orderly and they consideration of legislation. Unforession events may require modification of the easien calendar.

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January 3	2018 Legislative Session convenes
January 8	Start of sessions
January 15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 16	Final Day for Submission of Executive Budget

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February 19	Presidents' Day
April 1	Beginning of new Fiscal Year
May 28	Memorial Day

Indicates session day

## Time Is In High Demand and Low Supply



Arrive at night

Arrive in the morning 2pm: Conferences 3pm: Session

2pm: Conferences 3pm: Session

10am: Conferences 11am: Session Noon: Leave

## **During Session**



# In your home district





In your home district





#### **Budget Timeline Detail**

**Budget Cycle Phases** 

June - September: Agency budget preparation October - December: Division of Budget review November - January: Governor and 2nd floor decisions January - March: Legislative action



# **Small Group Conversations**

- If we want to put pressure on electeds, when and where can we be vocal and visible?
- During session, when is best to talk strategy, build a relationship, or convince electeds of anything?

## **Key Take-aways**

- Legislative advocacy is year-round
- Off-session is the best time to build relationships with legislators
- During session, build with electeds when they're in their home districts
- Use Albany visits to be vocal and visible and put pressure on electeds

## **Different Types of Staff**

#### Central Staff

- Work on specific issues and committees in Albany
- Based in Albany
- Accountable to conference leader

#### Personal Staff

- Based in District office or Albany office
- May travel with the electeds
- Accountable to the elected



# **State Election Outcomes**

## Who's Who – Legislators

- Legislature two chambers bicameral
  - State Senate 63 members
  - State Assembly 150 members
- Legislators elected every 2 years
  - November 2020
  - No term limits
- Legislator base-pay \$110,000 (part time)
  - Lulus range from 5 18K

#### Legislative Conferences 2019

Senate





Democratic: 39

Republican: 23

Assembly



## NYS Senate 2008

## Democrats: 32



## NYS Senate 2011

# Democrats: 31

Republican: 32

Mainline: 27

IDC: 4




#### NYS Senate 2018

#### Democrats: 31



#### NYS Senate 2019

#### Democrats: 39



# Republican: 24

#### Newlyelected Senators





John Liu (D SD 11



Julia Salazar (D) SD 18



Kevin Thom SD 6



Nonica Martinez ( SD 3



SD 40



James G. Skoufis (D) SD 39



Rachel May (D) SD 53



Robert Jackson (D SD 31



Jessica Ramos ( SD 13



Jim Gaughran SD - 33



Zellnor Myrie (D) SD 20

## **Using the Interactive Maps**

- 1. What are the top 2 committees you're interested in?
- 2. Open the interactive map: <u>http://interactive.advocacy-institute.org/</u>
- 3. Who is the Chair of each?
- 4. Now open the geographic interactive map: <a href="https://tools.advocacy-institute.org/geographic">https://tools.advocacy-institute.org/geographic</a>
- 5. Where on the map are the Chairs? Build alliances there!





Andrew Cuomo (D) Governor



Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D) Senate Majority Leader Yonkers



Carl Heastie (D) Assembly Speaker Bronx

#### Who's Who – Executive

- Governor Cuomo Executive
- Re-elected every 4 years
  - Can serve 3 terms, but most serve 2
- Part way through 3rd Term

#### Who's Who – Executive

- Governor Role as initiator/driver
  - Top down, strong executive, controls agencies
  - State of State
  - Executive Budget



- 63 members
- ~ 300,000/district
- "Upstate House"
- Conferences
- Leader is Andrea Stewart-Cousins

#### **State Assembly**

- 150 members
- ~ 128,000/district
- "Downstate House"
- Democrats clearly in control
- Leader is Speaker Carl Heastie

## Working Across the Regions



Peterborough

### Representative Democracy

Laricaster.

male



Burlington

VERMONT



#### **Key Take-aways**

- Hold the new Senate accountable to our goals
- The Assembly may not vote the way they used to
- Conferences function as a team with leadership as the team captains
- Work in coalition across districts