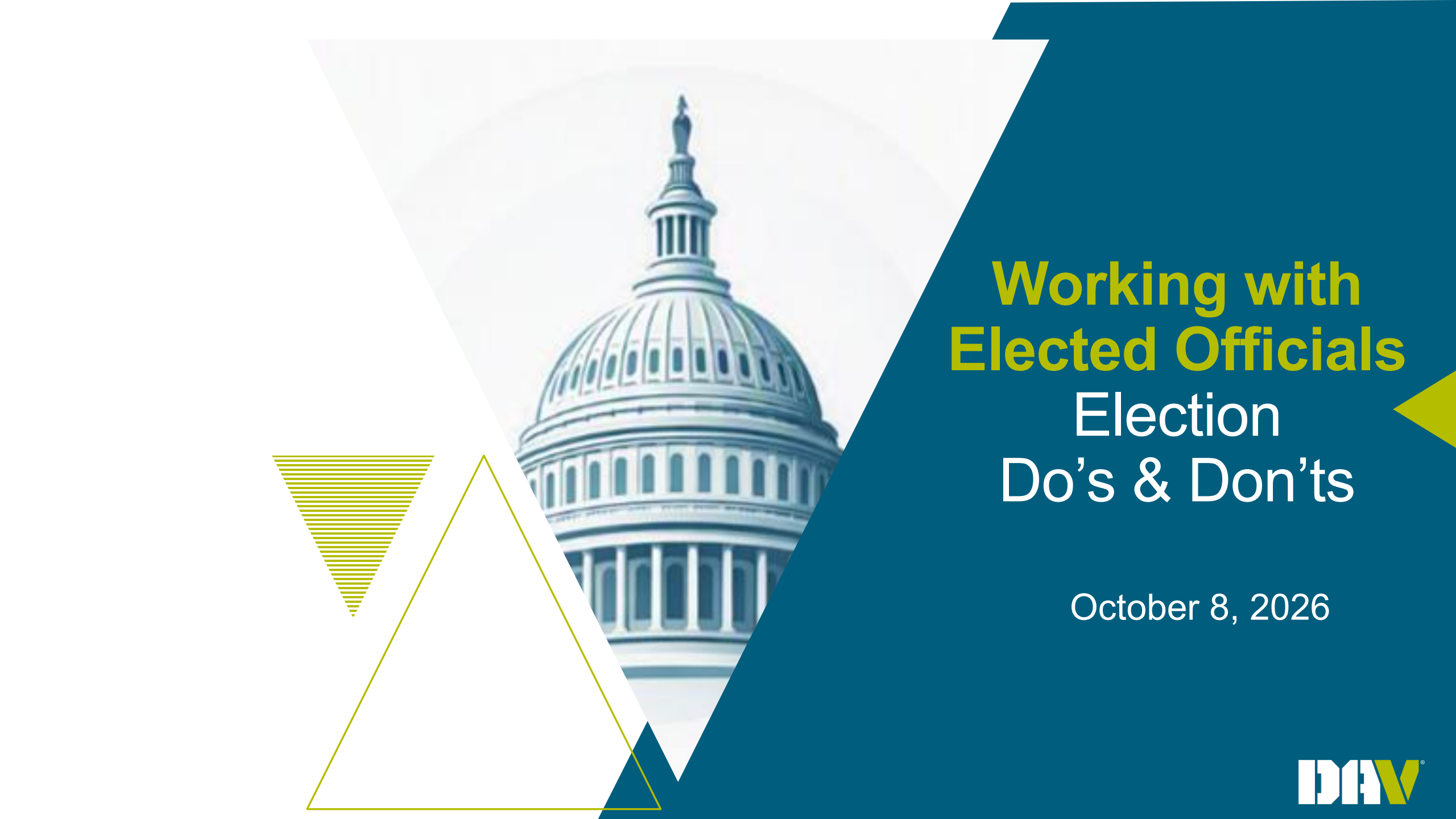




Working with Elected Officials

Election Do's & Don'ts

October 8, 2026

Strategic Advocacy Approach

Effective representation goes far beyond single-issue advocacy

Beyond Single Issues

Build consistent relationships rooted in shared community goals.

Trusted Expertise

Position yourself as the go-to subject matter expert for veteran policies.

Year-Round Presence

Maintain continuous visibility between election cycles and legislative pushes.

Establishing Initial Contact

Laying the groundwork for productive legislative engagement

Contact Schedulers

Reach out directly to local district office and D.C. office schedulers.

Lead as a Constituent

Introduce yourself first as a constituent, then DAV BPTL.

Share Critical Policy Goals

Center the meeting around community goals rather than immediate demands.

Engaging Legislative Staff

Policy aides and legislative assistants make an office run

Cultivate Key Aides

Build strong working relationships with policy aides and assistants.

Provide Reliable Data

Supply objective data and serve as a trusted subject matter expert.

Be the Go-To Resource

Make yourself accessible when legislation is moving and real-time input is needed.

Show Up Locally

Maintain regular face-to-face visibility in the home district



Town halls and mobile offices

Attend local events hosted by the official to maintain visibility.



Facility and program tours

Invite officials and staff to tour the local VA or see your programs firsthand.

Communicating Year-Round

Sustaining relationships beyond immediate legislative asks

Impact Updates

Send brief updates on local organizational impact without asking for favors.

Prompt Appreciation

Send thank-you notes after meetings or positive votes on key issues.

Provide Share DAV Resources

Distribute resolutions, critical policy goals and the Veterans Independent Budget.



Toolkit & Closing the Feedback Loop

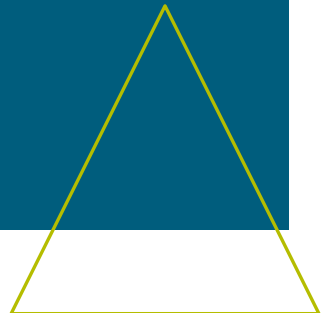
Leveraging national staff for maximum advocacy impact

BPTL Toolkit

Utilize DAV resources designed to streamline grassroots advocacy and engagement.

National Legislative Staff

Close the feedback loop with national staff during Mid-Winter Conference and fly-ins.





Voting



DAV encourages you, as an individual, to register to vote, to vote in elections and to actively support the candidates of your choice.





DAV is a nonpartisan organization. As a member and leader, you have the responsibility to ensure your any election activities do not give the appearance that DAV supports or opposes any political candidate.





Do's

DO hold open candidate forums or town hall meetings so the candidates can discuss their positions on issues affecting veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors.

Don'ts

DON'T support a candidate, or attend political events in support of a candidate, in the name of DAV, nor should you give the appearance that DAV is supporting a particular candidate. Wearing DAV apparel can give the appearance of support by the organization.



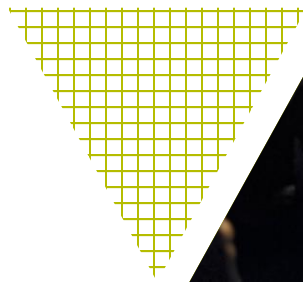


Do's

DO make candidates aware of the issues facing wounded, ill and injured veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors, either as an individual or as a DAV member and leader.

Don'ts

DON'T advocate for your own personal positions. Use DAV's national resolutions to ensure your position is in line with, and not contrary to or unsupported by our adopted resolutions when speaking on behalf of the organization.



Inform

Remind candidates, while DAV provides no-cost services to ALL veterans, our legislative advocacy's focus is on the betterment of wartime disabled veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors.



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