



Legislative Department

DAV National Headquarters

DAV Department Admin Training and Orientation

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National Legislative Department

Primary Responsibilities:

- Advocate for reasonable, responsible legislation to assist ill and injured veterans, their families and survivors
- Meet with members of Congress and their staffs
- Review veteran-related bills and draft legislation
- Develop key legislative priorities and priority goals each Congress, and issue campaigns based on DAV resolutions
- Participate in roundtable discussions on Capitol Hill, formal presentations and events
- Provide Congressional testimony on behalf of DAV members



Legislative Branch

National Legislative Department

- Develop relationships, interface with the Executive Branch/the Administration (president, VA officials, and policy experts)
- **GOAL:** To advance DAV's highest legislative priorities and policy goals



Executive Branch

Executive Branch

- Following passage of veterans' legislation, **bill signing**
- President invited to attend national convention
- **DAV** is seen as **leader** among the nation's **VSOs** (veterans service organizations)
- Because of our advocacy, who we are and what we do, **DAV** is **well respected**
- **Non-partisan organization**, and cannot support or oppose candidates for office
- Work in a **BI-PARTISAN** manner

Executive Branch/Departments

In addition to working with Congress, we work with various federal agencies:

- Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), health care, benefits programs and specialized services
- Department of Labor (DOL), veteran employment issues
- Department of Defense (DOD), war-related injuries and illnesses



DAV Resolutions

Resolutions are key to our a advocacy efforts

- We need resolutions to support or oppose legislation
- DAV departments consider proposed resolutions at their state conventions
- Resolutions approved at the department level are submitted for consideration at the national convention

1

Chapter &
department
Initiated

2

National
Consideration &
Adoption

Annual Process: Resolution Submission



Resolution Process: Consideration and Disposition

National Convention Committees

4 Primary Resolution-based committees

Legislation and Veterans Rights

Hospital and Voluntary Services

Employment

General Resolutions and Membership

Resolution Process: Convention Committees

Each committee has **two advisors**, appointed by the national adjutant

Delegates (and alternates) are selected by the 21 Districts to serve on convention committees

Advisors (subject matter experts) are present at the convention committee meetings to **facilitate discussion**, provide expertise and guidance on issues

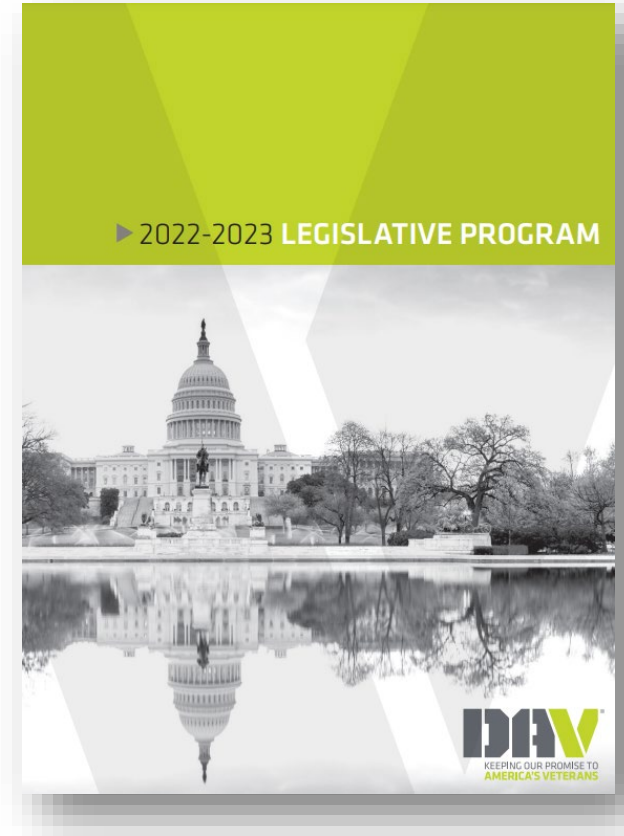
Delegates are responsible for voting on and **adoption or rejection** of each **resolution** under their jurisdiction.

Resolutions adopted by convention committee(s) are read **and approved by the convention** (made up of delegates to the convention)

Resolutions adopted at national convention become DAV's **Legislative Program**

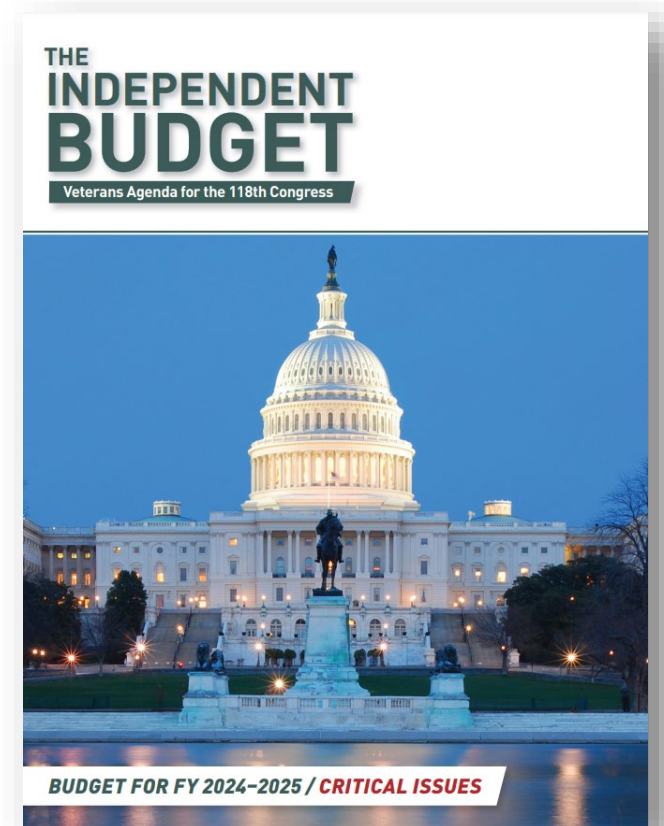
DAV Legislative Program

- Made up of resolutions that are approved each year at DAV's national convention
- Resolutions cover a wide variety of veterans issues: health care; benefits; employment; cemetery
- **Adopted resolutions become our mandate/guide on:**
 - Policy decisions and positions on legislation; and
 - Testimony before Congress



Independent Budget

- DAV is a **founding member** of the **Independent Budget**, along with VFW and PVA (1986)
- A **Policy and Budget** document covering a variety of veteran issues
- IB budget and policy recommendations are considered by Congress—hearings held
- **Includes critical issues for each Congress:** key legislative priorities/summary of issues and recommendations



Purpose of DAV's Mid-Winter Conference

- Legislative focus/**Critical Policy Goals**
- **Legislative Seminar**—brief our **Benefit Protection Team Leaders**
- DAV members are encouraged to meet **with their elected officials in D.C.**
- DAV national commander delivers **testimony** before Congress



Mid-Winter National Commander's Presentation



Grassroots Advocacy

Benefits Protection Team Leaders

Grassroots Advocacy

Benefits Protection Team Leaders

- Play a **Key Role** in DAV advocacy efforts
- **Build relationships** with elected officials
- Support **DAV legislative priorities**
- Part of **DAV CAN—Commander's Action Network**



Advocate for Legislation

- To find the **Advocate** page, click under the “**Get Involved**” tab.
- Clicking on the “**Advocate For Legislation**” link will take you to the legislative advocacy web page



DAV Advocacy Web-Page

- Taking Action – **DAV CAN Alerts**
- **Veterans Legislation**
- **Talking points** on key issues
- **Resource Page** – DAV resolutions, testimony, issue briefs, webinars, Independent Budget

We solve veterans issues through legislation

For over 100 years, DAV has been advocating for better federal veterans programs, benefits, health care and transition services for the men and women who served, their families and survivors. DAV's National Legislative Department takes the resolutions adopted by DAV members at our annual National Conventions to Congress to advocate for improved federal laws, regulations and policies of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other federal agencies whose programs support the veteran population.

DAV's key legislative priorities are detailed in the Critical Policy Goals brief linked below on this page. Please review these goals, participate in the Commander's Action Network, and use the links below to ensure you are an effective advocate when meeting with your members of Congress and addressing these priorities and other important issues impacting veterans. Grassroots advocacy and your active participation is the key to our collective strength in Washington, D.C., and achieving more legislative victories for veterans in the year ahead.



[VIEW DAV'S FULL CRITICAL POLICY GOALS FOR 2023](#)

[VIEW DAV'S CONDENSED CRITICAL POLICY GOALS FOR 2023](#)

[TAKE ACTION](#)

[2022-2023 Legislative Program \(Resolutions\)](#)

DAV's Legislative Program includes all of the legislative resolutions adopted at our most recent national convention, which guide DAV's positions on federal programs, policies and legislation.

[Congressional Testimony](#)

Read official testimonies DAV has delivered to the Senate and House of Representatives, which cover legislation, funding, policies and proposals to strengthen and reform veterans health care services and benefits programs.

[Issue Briefs](#)

Through a series of DAV issue briefs, learn more about the most critical issues challenging veterans today. Topics include veterans health care reform, caregiver support, women veterans, burn pits and survivor benefits.

[Legislative Webinars](#)

Find out how to become more involved and effective as a DAV advocate through our series of webinars about the legislative process, department and national conventions, resolution writing, Benefits Protection Teams and many other topics of interest to our members and supporters.

[Independent Budget](#)

DAV Advocacy Website



— dav.quorum.us —

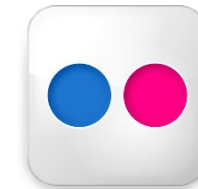
DAV CAN—Commander's Action Network

- Sign-up for DAV CAN at dav.quorum.us
- Your resource for staying informed and getting involved on veterans' issues
- Advocacy campaigns/action alerts
- Key legislation

Advocate for DAV Online

Social Media

- facebook.com/DAV
- youtube.com/disabledamericanveterans
- twitter.com/davhq
- instagram.com/davhq
- flickr.com/photos/thedav
- linkedin.com/company/48969





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