

Recipe for Legislative Action by Grassroots Advocacy Groups

Ingredients

Bill or Resolution Sponsor(s) - Senate and House
Bill or Resolution - provisions and language
Majority of votes in each chamber (House, Senate)
Making the Case: Message Points
 including: Answers to Tough Questions
Citizen Lobbyists - each legislative district (especially priority districts chosen for votes)
 (meet with, secure support and votes from local legislators)
Legislative lobbying - bill-tracking, vote-counting (prior to and during legislative session)
Public awareness of issue and reform proposals; media coverage, etc.

Key advocacy ingredients

Coalition of Support Groups
Adequate resources to carry out advocacy and lobbying plans and activities
Plans - Blueprint and timetable for action, objectives and milestones

Support and corollary work, regarding corporate influence and power

Connect the dots with a wide array of issues of daily concern
Compile and disseminate information on the influence of corporate power
 (specific ways in which most of America is not well-served by corporate hijacking of democracy)
Provide training for citizen activists, citizen lobbyists
Coordinate civic and citizen action(s) on issues that demonstrate the need for reforms
Seek resolutions of support from local jurisdictions (cities, etc.) and organizations
... and more

Suggested timetable, target dates:

Target date(s)

Contact / confirm sponsors, co-sponsors
ID leaders and advocacy teams in each legislative district
Contact legislators - initial evaluation of their position, questions, etc.
Participate in legislative "Committee Days" (fall, 2011)
Gather organizational support and endorsements

During legislative session:

Bill tracking
Public hearings
Action Alerts / etc.

Planng Guide for Citizen Lobbying for Legislative Action

(regarding 28th Amendment advocacy work)

Keep in mind: **twin objectives** --

- Achieve a legislative resolution (calling Congress to propose a 28th Amendment...)
(and this requires a focus on votes, by legislators)
- Grow public awareness (how we're not well-served by corporate power and influence)
and popular mobilization, joining and supporting a nationwide popular movement for change

Regarding legislative advocacy / citizen lobbying (to achieve favorable vote)...

I. Meetings with legislators --

First priority: legislative "champions" who understand the issue and support this campaign effort.

Objectives: Gather information and advice, guiding legislative strategy and possible votes

- What are likely points of concern? opposition arguments? points in favor?
- Who and what are points of influence (in each district)?

Next priority: legislators in swing areas, unknown or likely unsure, but possible votes in favor.

Objectives: Advise them of the issue and proposal; inform them of growing public concern;

- Learn their current stance; their concerns; what would be necessary to achieve their vote

Lower priority: legislators likely or certainly opposed.

Objectives: learn their opposition points and concerns, and response to public polls on the issue;

- perhaps soften their opposition, or at least, let them know they've been heard

General approach, all legislators: Learn about each legislator (research in advance) --

- their bio, history, and current focus. Visit www.leg.wa.gov/pages/home.aspx
- what issues they ran on; what bills they sponsor, support, and oppose
- what are concerns of voters in their district; economics of their district
- who are key campaign financiers? Visit www.pdc.wa.gov/MVCQuerySystem
Any biz or donors in-district who would support and join the 28th Amendment campaign?

Organize (in advance) delegation teams to visit legislators:

- Seek wide representation from the district, including small business, civic groups, etc.
NOTE: This raises public awareness, and adds to citizen lobbying experience and savvy.
- Arrange meetings with groups and persons who will join the citizen lobbying campaign.
- Learn and know the information, message points, why a 28th Amendment is needed ...
(info available through Resources, listed below)

II. Generating in-district lobbying pressure --

Seek resolutions of support from a wide variety of in-district organizations

(faith groups, neighborhood groups, PTAs, unions, small business, etc.)

Generate popular "buzz" about the issue (undue influence of corporate power)

Find and research specific examples of how local district is poorly-served or negatively-affected by

Wall Street interests and control over policy, budgets, lawmaking

Organize local demonstrations around these issues and examples,

and wherever possible, link to specific reform or policy change

III. Resources: (a sampling. For more, search for 28th amendment groups, or overturn Citizens United)

Free Speech For People.org

Move-To-Amend.org - and, Move-To-Amend/Olympia / www.movetoamendolympia.org/

Washington Community Action Network (WA-CAN!) / Main Street Alliance (statewide small-biz alliance)

Washington Public Campaigns (Washclean.org) / www.washclean.org/CitizensUnited.htm

Washington Public Interest Research Group (WashPIRG.org)