



AMERICAN LEGION – DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

CAPITOL ADVOCACY DAY

MAY 27, 2026

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

THE AMERICAN LEGION-DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA WILL BE HOSTING ITS CAPITOL ADVOCACY DAY IN SACRAMENTO ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026. THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LEGIONNAIRES TO VISIT STATE LEGISLATORS AND THEIR STAFF TO ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE ON IMPORTANT VETERANS ISSUES.

THE STATE CAPITOL BUILDING IS UNDERGOING A MULTI-YEAR REMODEL. THE GOVERNOR, LT. GOVERNOR, AND LEGISLATORS ARE CURRENTLY HOUSED IN THE CAPITOL ANNEX SWING SPACE, ONE BLOCK SOUTH OF THE WEST END OF CAPITOL PARK. THIS EVENT WILL BE HELD AT THE CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE, ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE SWING SPACE. WE WILL BE IN THE 1ST FLOOR AUDITORIUM.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND BUFFET LUNCH PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT. PLEASE WEAR YOUR HATS! SHOW THE LEGISLATURE THAT THE LEGION IS ACTIVE AND INVOLVED.

WHEN: MAY 27, 2026 (WEDNESDAY)

8:30 AM: DOORS OPEN; MINGLING/NETWORKING, COFFEE, PASTRIES

9:00 AM: PROGRAM STARTS

3:30 PM: EVENT ENDS

WHERE: MARCH FONG EU SECRETARY OF STATE BUILDING

1500 11TH ST, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

(ENTRANCE ON THE SOUTH/WEST CORNER OF 11TH AND O STREETS)

1ST FLOOR AUDITORIUM: MUST SHOW DRIVER'S LICENSE OR CA ID CARD TO ENTER

PARKING:

- **DGS PUBLIC GARAGE, 1500 10TH ST. 200 YARDS FROM EVENT.**
WEDNESDAY RATE: \$8.00 (IF IN BEFORE 8:30 AM).
- **CAPITOL GARAGE, 915 L STREET (10TH AND L STREETS). 0.43 MILES FROM EVENT.**
ENTRANCE ON 10 STREET, WHICH IS ONE-WAY GOING NORTH
WEEKDAY RATES (6 A.M. TO 5 P.M.); \$1.50 EACH HALF HOUR; \$30 DAILY MAXIMUM

MUST RSVP TO ATTEND, SEATING IS LIMITED.

OPEN TO THE FIRST 50 LEGIONNAIRES TO RSVP.

ATTENDANCE FOR THIS EVENT IS LIMITED BECAUSE OF SEATING SPACE.

To RSVP: PLEASE EMAIL DANA NICHOL danan@water-warrior.com with the following information:

1. Your first and last name
2. City/town you reside in
3. Post

If you have signed up, but end up not being able to make it, please let us know so we can open a seat for another Legionnaire: danan@water-warrior.com

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PREPARE FOR AMERICAN LEGION CAPITOL ADVOCACY DAY

Determine who your legislators are:

The afternoon portion of this event is meant for attendees to visit Assemblymembers and Senators that represent the area you reside in. Each Californian is represented by one Assemblymember and one Senator. By law, each of the state's 80 Assembly districts must contain an equal number of people, which currently means there are about 465,000 people per Assembly member. Each of the state's 40 Senate districts contains about 930,000 people. Therefore, Assembly and Senate districts don't follow symmetrical lines, they instead conform to population density. Therefore, to find out who your elected officials are, you need to search by your address:

<https://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>

On Capitol Advocacy Day, there will be folders provided with information about the Legion and position papers on key legislative issues of importance to veterans, servicemembers, and their dependents. Since there will be multiple veterans from some legislator's districts, it will be necessary for each attendee to try to coordinate with other attendees during lunch so they can team up to visit those legislators as a group. There is no clean way to accomplish this because of conflicting times and overlapping Assembly and Senate districts, but the goal is to have at least one veteran visit each office. Also, since this event is in Northern California, most attendees will be from regions near Sacramento. Most legislators are from Southern California, and it is imperative that as many of them as possible are visited by a veteran.

Therefore, after visiting their Assembly and Senate offices, we encourage attendees to also visit some offices that would not otherwise be visited. It is important to visit your locally elected representatives, but that does not preclude any veteran from visiting any legislator on behalf of the organization they belong to or on behalf of all veterans in the state. All legislators will be voting on veteran legislation at some point in the legislative process.

What to say to a legislator or staff-person when you visit them?

Introduce yourself as a veteran who is at the Capitol as part of the annual American Legion Capitol Advocacy Day. If you are visiting one of your own legislators, mention where you live. If you are visiting a legislator from outside of where you live, mention that you are a member of a statewide veterans organization that is visiting the Capitol as part of its advocacy day.

Present the folder by using the folder's contents as talking points. You can also talk about issues you feel are important to veterans in general such as education, housing, jobs, homelessness, etc. If it is a local legislator, offer yourself as a resource to the legislator and his or her staff on any veterans issues they may need input or assistance on in the future. You can also invite them to post meetings, Veterans Day parades, Memorial Day events, or any other functions you have.

Tips for Success:

- Be brief – legislators' time is limited (5-10 minutes)
- Share your personal story – real experiences resonate
- Ask for their position on veteran issues
- Leave your contact information as a resource
- Don't worry about being perfect – they want to hear from real veterans

What to Bring:

Photo ID, comfortable walking shoes, business cards (optional), notepad/pen for notes, your Legion cap/etc