



Component Legislative Committees

Component legislative committee members serve as the primary contacts for their components on state legislative activity. Every legislative session dozens of bills are introduced relating to dentistry, and elected officials need to know how legislation will affect oral health care in their districts. Legislative committees help lead grassroots advocacy efforts and relationship building with elected officials to strengthen the voice of the dental profession in the legislative process. Forming a legislative committee allows components to call upon multiple volunteers who can participate in grassroots activities, which include:

- **Organizing meetings with your legislators.** Meetings can be held in any number of locations, including your local dental society office, a legislator's district office, or at the Capitol in Sacramento. Contact CDA for background on legislators and information on current legislative issues. CDA also organizes "advocacy days" for individual components so members can meet with several legislators in one day either in Sacramento or in your region.
- **Staying informed and keeping your members informed.** CDA will regularly send summaries of the latest developments on major legislative issues to help keep you informed. You can also find information at cda.org, in CDA newsletters/emails, or contact CDA staff for more detail. Stay up to date on the latest issues and keep your colleagues informed at component meetings and through newsletter articles, emails, etc. Also, familiarize yourself with your legislators (visit their website, sign up for their newsletters, follow them on social media) and advise CDA staff of relevant legislative or political activity occurring within your component.
- **Attending a fundraiser.** Legislators hold several fundraising events in their districts every year. If there is an event you would like to attend, CDA will often make a contribution for you to attend on our behalf. CDA will also contact you about attending local fundraisers for legislators we are supporting. Legislation cannot be discussed at fundraisers but they are great opportunities to get acquainted with elected officials.
- **Attending community events hosted/attended by legislators.** Elected officials are frequently out in their districts at events, such as health fairs or community forums. Contact CDA staff if you hear about these types of events and are interested in participating. CDA will also contact you when opportunities arise.
- **Writing or calling your legislators.** Call your legislators' offices or send them an email or letter about legislation affecting dentistry. This becomes increasingly valuable as you get to know your legislators better. Legislators want to know how dentists in their districts feel about dental issues. CDA will provide guidance on what legislation to focus on.

For more information contact:

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