



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Department of North Carolina



LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Chair: Julie Smith

704-647-1193

juliehsmith1960@gmail.com

Member: Rebecca Higgins

704-419-4512

rebeccab.higgins@gmail.com

Upcoming November Elections

There are many Municipal elections that will occur this fall. Dates for Municipal elections are Tuesday October 5th and Tuesday November 2nd. If you need to know what elections are being held in your area you can find out at <https://www.ncsbe.gov/> Your Unit can promote the "Get Out and Vote Program" even with local elections. For Information on the Municipalities elections for North Carolina <https://www.ncsbe.gov/voting/upcoming-election> Voting in local government elections is extremely important. Municipalities control our local tax rates, (property taxes) make decisions about development, policing, trash services and other issues that affect our daily lives Most municipalities in NC conduct elections in odd-numbered years. On this website you will find a tab "voting tool kit" that will show you county by county and what election will occur this year and dates for the elections.

On the National level, visit the Legion's legislative website, www.legion.org/legislative, to keep current on legislative priorities and updates. Stay informed by subscribing to the Legion's Legislative Action Alerts at www.capwiz.com/legion/mlm/signup to subscribe. Join the National Legislative Facebook page, ALA National Headquarters: www.facebook.com/ALAforVeterans and Department Legislative Facebook page NC ALA Legislative Facebook group and don't forget to download a copy of the ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide from www.ALAforVeterans.org.

Here is an activity that your unit can do to support the Legislative program and our veterans. As members of the ALA, we advocate for better care of our veterans in our communities and country.

- 1) Your unit can host a letter-writing campaign to local, state, and federal officials.
- 2) Host a letter writing party at your unit. Invite the Legion Family members, friends, family, and members of other civic organizations to the party. Make sure you explain why the veterans' issues are important. Determine which veterans' issues are top priority in your community, state, or the nation. You can find outlined issues that the American Legion has identified as the most important facing veterans at www.capwiz.com/legion/mlm/signup.
- 3) Set up a letter writing station with electronic form letters and sample letters for members to copy.
- 4) Ask your local library or school if your group can use their computer lab.
- 5) Provide envelopes, stamps, and pens so letters can be signed, sealed and mailed that day.
- 6) Make your decorated ALA letter box for members to drop their letters in.

Don't forget to take a picture and post it on the Department Legislative Facebook page. You may get some new ALA members also. Don't forget to have fun and provide snacks!!

If you are not receiving my monthly Legislative newsletter and would like a copy, please call or email me.

For God and Country,
ALA Proud and Strong
Julie

DATE

Dear Senator or Representative _____,

I am a military member/Veteran/retiree, living in this great state of North Carolina. I am also a constituent of your district.

I am writing today to ask for your support to Eliminate Income Tax for Military Retirees contained in the current Senate budget. As you know, this Bill, if passed, would permit more recent Military Retirees to deduct their Military Retired Pay from NC Income Tax. Passage of this legislation would encourage retiring Service Members to stay in, or relocate to, North Carolina, where their contributions to the state economy would be far greater than the revenue lost from this deduction. North Carolina military retirees and various Veterans organizations have been supporting legislation of this type for many years and are encouraged by the broad support for HB 83, that contained the same language currently contained in the NC Senate budget proposal.

HB 83 passed in the NC House by a vote of 100 – 5, which shows that military tax exemption has strong support in the General Assembly. As you know, there are a number of groups advocating for tax-free retirement for all NC public service heroes to be included along with the military tax exemption effort. While I am not speaking out against this effort, I am asking you to stay the course on the current legislative path and not allow the military tax exemption effort to end because of the combined and competing retiree efforts.

While these state employees do play a critical role in supporting and protecting North Carolina Citizens, the U.S. military is clearly in a class of its own in its role to our Nation and State. This is evident by recent events within and outside of our state. Furthermore, the legislature has a number of tools available to them to influence the state retiree program. For our military members there is no such tools available.

Passage of military pension tax exemption would be an excellent step toward making NC a more military friendly state. Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your continuing support of NC military personnel, veterans and their families.

Sincerely,

_____ (your name)

Address or other contact info

NC ALA LEGISLATIVE ACTION – PLEASE USE THIS AS A TEMPLAT TO WRITE OR EMAIL YOUR CONGRESSMAN, SENATOR OR REPRESENTATIVE. ANY AND ALL!!
Check out the North Carolina General Assembly page <https://ncleg.gov/> Near the bottom of the screen, click on find your Legislator, enter your address and you will find your North Carolina senators and Representatives to the General Assembly. Click on their name and you can see their contact information