

LEGISLATION/RESOLUTIONS SUPPLEMENT 2024-2026

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GFWC Club Connection Initiative: Legislative Ladder

- Cubs are challenged to “step up” to EDUCATE, ENGAGE, EMPOWER through the concrete steps of the Legislative Ladder, found in the Member Portal Digital Library. Steps do not need to be completed sequentially. Individual steps may be reported only once each reporting year but may be engaged in multiple times during the club year. The point values identified for each step is the total that may be accumulated annually. Certificates will be awarded for clubs reporting activities with point values totaling 35 points or more. Individual club recognition will take place during the 2025 and 2026 GFWC Annual Conventions.

In Your Club:

- Encourage your members to join and use the GFWC Legislative Action Center by giving a presentation at your club meeting. By joining, your members will receive email notifications if action is needed on GFWC’s legislative and policy priorities with an easy link to send a message to their representatives. At the Legislative Action Center, members can also review the GFWC’s legislative priorities and find GFWC Resolutions.
- Appoint an interested and informed club member to serve as Legislation Chairman or establish a club legislative committee to follow action in the State and National Legislatures and in monthly ALMANAC articles. Provide time at club meetings for congressional or issue briefings.
- Create a club ‘What’s New’ clipping service on issues of interest to members. Ask members to clip or copy newspaper or magazine articles for distribution to club members. Provide a notebook or clipboard for these articles to be used by your members.
- Download or purchase the complete set of NJSFWC Active Resolutions from Headquarters. At a club meeting, discuss with members which Active Resolutions are of interest, and schedule a letter writing workshop to voice your support. Educate your members on both the GFWC and NJSFWC by reading one at every meeting.
- Include a short article about a GFWC Resolution in every club newsletter. Do not just reprint them, talk about what it asks from members and why.
- Give a presentation on the Legislative Priorities for the 2024-2026 Administration
- Download or Purchase the Letter Writing Kit from Headquarters. Consider providing stamp, writing paper, envelopes and addresses of local, state and national legislators for members to write to their representatives on specific issues. Draft and distribute a sample letter or email for club members to send on a specific issue
- Institute a series of “study circles” for club members to learn about important public policy issues that affect their families and the community. Provide time at a club meeting for the group to report their findings.
- Plan a club program on how bills become laws or how to communicate ideas and opinions to legislators. Use available community resources to conduct a “civics seminar.” Potential speakers can include teaching staff from a local college, congressional district office staff or other voter advocacy groups.
- Plan early in the club year to submit a Resolution. Select and research a topic of importance to your club. Check to see if there is pending legislation regarding your subject. Remember that a Resolution does not have to be in support of/against a bill. It can urge legislative action regarding your topic.
 1. To write a Resolution, consult the NJSFWC Bylaws governing Resolutions, Article VIII, Section 8.2, N-3 Standing Committees, Legislation/Resolutions Committee.
 2. If you have a topic about which you would like to write a Resolution, have your supporting material, and have read the Bylaws regarding Resolutions. If you do not know where or how to begin, contact the Legislation/Resolutions Chairman before November 1st for assistance.
 3. Proposed Resolutions must be received by the NJSFWC Legislation /Resolutions Chairman no later than December 15th.

In Your Community:

- Bring the legislative process into the schools. Free copies of “The Legislative Process” (How a Bill Becomes Law) and/or free copies of pending legislation are available by calling 609-292-6395. This document is also available online (www.njleg.state.nj.us/legislativepub/legprocess.asp) under “General Information”. Copies of this document are an excellent tool for middle school and high school government/civics classes.
- Identify and network with other groups in your community to form coalitions to support specific public policy issues and legislative initiatives.
- Develop a community public policy directory listing public officials and their staff, government agencies and other civic and advocacy organizations.
- Establish voter information projects or incorporate voter registration tables at other community events. Contact the League of Women Voters New Jersey for Voter Registration Drive Kit to help individuals register citizens by using the following email: contact@lwvnj. Please make sure to give them your county with your request.
- Purchase the “Citizens Guide to Government”, available for \$3.00/copy (includes shipping/handling and sales tax – **see note below**) from the League of Women Voters of NJ, 204 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608; phone 609-394-3303; or online at www.lwvnj.org. Donate a copy or copies annually to the Civics department at your high school, middle school, public library and community college (**NOTE:** This special price is for NJSFWC members only when intended for distribution in schools and libraries. For all other purchases, see their pricing list.)
- Utilize the website www.votesmart.org for non-partisan information on U.S. federal and state candidates, national candidates’ legislative records and public statements on issues (for President, the US Senate and the US Congress) ballot measures, issues and legislation. Includes directory of national and state political resources. Make an appointment for a club delegation to meet with a local, state, or national legislator or his/her representative in the home office to discuss legislative issues of interest, either to your members, or based on NJSFWC Resolutions.

At The State Level:

- Download the “2022 NJ Citizens Guide to Government”, published by the New Jersey League of Women Voters at www.lwvnj.org. This publication includes state and county contact information for legislators.
- Make an appointment for a club delegation to meet with a local, state, or national legislator or his/her representative in the home office to discuss legislative issues of interest, either to your members, or based on NJSFWC Resolutions.
- Information on policy issues in New Jersey can be found on Ballotpedia.org and are listed by state and by category (i.e., education, healthcare, environment)
- To review the status of all New Jersey legislation, call 800-792-8630 or online at www.njleg.state.nj.us

At The Federal Level:

- To review the status of all federal legislation, call 202-225-1772 or 202-224-3121 or online www.congress.gov or www.house.gov
- Utilize the website www.votesmart.org for non-partisan information on U.S. federal and state candidates, national candidates’ legislative records and public statements on issues (for President, the US Senate and the US Congress) ballot measures, issues and legislation. Includes directory of national and state political resources.
- To reach a member of the U.S. Senate or to register your opinion on an issue, call 202-224-3121 and ask for a specific senator, or online www.senate.gov
- To reach a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, or to register your opinion on an issue, call 202- 225-3121 and ask for a specific representative, or online www.house.gov
- To contact the President of the United State with your comments or opinions, call 202-456-1111 or email: president@whitehouse.gov or online www.whitehouse.gov

Use the GFWC 2024-2026 Club Manual: Legislation and Public Policy Program for additional project ideas and resources. Resolutions passed by the membership at GFWC Annual Conventions can also be found on the GFWC website and supported or opposed by NJSFWC clubs.