

GRANGE

Legislative Priorities

In 2022
New York State Grange advocates
for....

Agriculture

- We support family-owned dairy farms. We support dairy producers receiving a fair market price for milk which includes regional fair market pricing, farmer-led milk production growth management plans, and repeal of unfair labor mandates.
- We support funding to mitigate nonpoint source pollution through such programs as the Agricultural Environment Management Program funded through the NYS Environmental Protection Fund and the Federal Government.
- We support tax incentives for telecommunication providers to install broadband internet service in rural areas not currently served.



Federal Government

- We support continued funding of Social Security, without increasing the eligibility age, and the discontinuance of the use of funds for other purposes. We do not view Social Security and Medicare as entitlement programs. For many it is their sole source of income and/or medical insurance. It must be protected.



Education

- We support funding for agricultural education, literacy, and FFA programs that encourage awareness of and equip students for careers in the agricultural industry.
- We support the elimination of any mandates imposed by any governmental body which does not properly fund them, thus relieving the burden on local municipalities and school districts.
- We support the reintroduction of a civics curriculum in our high schools to equip

our students with the necessary knowledge and skills to be effective and responsible voices in the civic dialogue necessary to maintain our Republic.

Health

- We support comprehensive health care reform that would address the special needs of rural areas in relation to shortages of doctors, nurses, health care facilities, and access to prescription medicines at reasonable prices to the consumer. Attention must also be given to the adequate and safe treatment of minors within the health care system. Programs such as loan forgiveness, establishment of incentives, should be developed that will encourage health care professionals to practice in the State's rural areas.



State Government

- We support meaningful legislative reform that includes an open budget process; open legislative sessions, voter voice in pay raises for elected officials and term limits.

● PRIORITIES FOR 2022

- We support fair prices for farm products – pricing that accurately reflects the labor, transportation and feed costs experienced by farmers in different regions that will provide a fair price for farm products.
- We support Agricultural, Career, and Vocational Education, and encourage its availability for all interested students.
- We support the preservation of the US Postal Service, and oppose the closing of offices and elimination of Saturday mail that would adversely affect rural areas. Adequate funding is absolutely necessary.
- We support the expansion of broadband into underserved rural areas. It is essential that it be available and affordable for all residents.
- We support the vigorous prosecution of those who commit fraudulent acts which costs consumers through higher insurance premiums and taxes.
- We encourage adequate funding for programs and training programs that will encourage good environmental/stewardship programs for agricultural landowners.
- We support legislation that would limit the use of eminent domain power to public projects and exclude the taking of property for private economic development.
- We support the expansion of Medicare coverage to include observation stays as

inpatient status for Medicare Part A coverage.

- We support efforts by federal and state agencies to investigate and prosecute cases of nursing home abuse.

WHAT IS THE GRANGE?

The Grange is an organization that welcomes all, regardless of age, race, gender, religion, or political affiliation. The fraternal aspects foster a deep appreciation of American agriculture and a spirit of community involvement. The Grange has programs of interest to everyone.

Local, State, and National issues of concern to communities receive attention by Grange members and Grange leaders. Legislators are made aware of the Grange's support or opposition to issues. The Grange is a forceful and effective voice for agriculture and rural values. The Grange seeks to improve the quality of life in our communities.

“The Grange provides the opportunity, the people provide the leadership, the community reaps the benefits.”

The Grange Vision

An Initiator of Community Action
A Facilitator of Leadership Development
An Advocate for Families
A Trusted Conveyor of Issues to Legislators

STATE GRANGE 2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



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