

# GRANGE

## Legislative Priorities

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In 2024  
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 the passage of an equitable Federal Farm bill that will provide funding programs that will benefit all forms of agriculture.
- 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.
- We support all efforts to curb the use of illegal drugs and to support programs for those seeking help with their addiction.



### 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 2024

- We support immigration reforms especially the H-1B and H-2A visa programs to ease restrictions for immigrant farm laborers.
- We support timely passage of the next 5-year cycle of a fair and equitable Federal Farm bill.
- We oppose lowering the overtime threshold from 60 hours to 40 hours for farm laborers.
- We support implementing school safety programs to improve the school learning environment for students.
- We support adequate funding for vocational/technical education in our schools, including agricultural education.
- We support working with other organizations to fix the Tier 6 level in the state retirement system,
- We support all efforts to protect Social Security and Medicare programs and ensure they are fully funded to protect our senior population who are eligible.
- We support legislation that would help to maintain rural hospitals to provide adequate care in underserved rural areas.

- We support programs that would provide mental health services for those living in rural areas.
- We support legislation that would ensure access to all cancer treatment drugs for cancer patients undergoing treatment.

### **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.”*

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### **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 2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**



New York State Grange

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