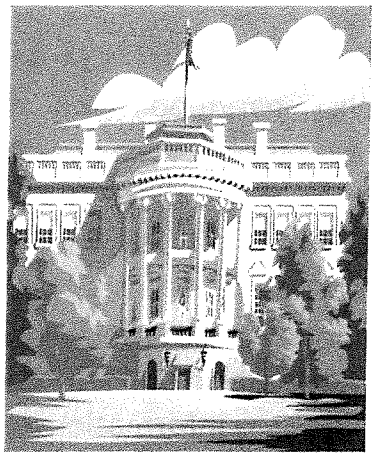
NEW YORK STATE GRANGE
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
2027-2028







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NEW YORK STATE GRANGE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

I wonder if our founding fathers ever imagined that, as a country, we would be celebrating our 250th anniversary. This is a milestone that we will be celebrating for the next year. I hope that you all find some way to celebrate this special milestone in our country's history.

As a Grange, we have been a part of that history for over 150 years. We have been a part of some major changes in our history as a country, such as the Granger Laws. As our theme suggests the Grange will be an active part in taking America beyond 250 years.

The legislative work of the Grange will be an important segment of your Grange work that will make that happen. The Grange has been and always will be a voice for rural America. By making our Federal and State governments aware of the needs of our rural communities we can work to make them a better and safer place for our neighbors.

Each year we establish a set of our top priorities for the year. These are based on what the delegates to that year's State Grange session determine as part of their committee work. This gives us the direction that you, as members, want to see your State Grange talking about with our legislators.

We suggest that your Grange review your legislative policy handbook and the top priorities for the current year. Choose one or two areas of interest. It does not have to be just agriculture; maybe something in education or health, transportation, or taxation. Depending on which topic you choose, there are many opportunities that will allow you to share information with your community.

By working with the other departments in your Grange, you can make a difference. Your Grange should have a planning meeting for their activities for the year. This is a perfect time to discuss the issues that each department will be working on. By joining together, you can increase the potential of getting your message out to the community. You will also be able to get a better understanding of what is most important to your community.

Lecturers/Program Directors: We want to encourage you to work with your Legislative Chairperson to arrange an open meeting program, inviting appropriate leaders involved in the issue that you have chosen

for the subject. Be sure to get the word out to your community and invite them to come and be part of the discussion.

Legislative Committee/Chairperson: Chose a meeting or two, with permission from the Master/President, to set aside for the review of Grange policies. If there is something that we do not have a policy or policy that you would like to change, this is the perfect time to write a resolution.

Community Involvement: Work with the Lecturer/Program Director and the Legislative Chairperson on planning and executing the open meeting. This would be an excellent addition to your handbook submission. Be sure and take pictures, submit them for publication in your local newspapers. This will let everyone in your community know what your Grange is doing.

Youth and Juniors: Encourage your younger members to take part in your legislative effort. You might suggest that they make posters to place around the community. They could also write to local TV and radio stations to place a notice on their community bulletin boards about the meeting. A brief description of the topic of the meeting should be included so that everyone in the community will know what will be discussed at the meeting. Also encourage them to apply for the Earlandt Legislative Experience to Albany. This is an excellent opportunity for them to understand our state government works and how our Grange interacts with them.

Family Advocacy: Possibly the members of this committee could lead in the efforts to serve as welcoming people to your Grange meeting. They could help by directing people to the proper meeting room. They could also be available to answer questions about the Grange prior to or after the meeting. Light refreshments give the opportunity to mingle with those attending and share the story of the Grange.

We encourage Grangers to contact the New York State Grange Leadership/Membership Director or a committee member for assistance in conducting public meetings, writing successful press releases, and organizing panel discussions.

This format encourages participation of all the departments and members of the Grange. Be gracious and welcoming to the members of your community and to the speakers that you have invited. Please be sure and say, "Thank You." This simple gesture can go a long way to cementing relationships established and to give the best impression of the Grange.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2026



Determined at the October 2025 State Convention, the following concerns have been selected as our "Top Priorities" for 2026 and into the beginning of 2027. Because of the established policy and the

cycle of the program year for State Grange, we point out that these priorities will continue until January 2027 when the list may change slightly, following action taken by the delegates at the State Grange Convention in October 2026.

1. We support the timely passage of the next 5-year cycle of a fair and equitable Federal Farm Bill.
2. We support meaningful H2A immigration reform to ease the burden on farmers who hire migrant workers.
3. We support adequate funding for the education of future agricultural teachers and emphasize the importance of agricultural education.
4. We support all efforts to make our schools a safe learning environment for students.
5. We support all efforts to maintain adequate funding for Social Security recipients now and in the future.
6. We support all incentives to build the necessary infrastructure needed for rural broadband services.
7. We encourage changes within the healthcare system that would cap the cost of prescription drugs to keep them affordable for all.
8. We support all efforts to recruit and maintain the healthcare workers to address staffing shortages.
9. We support a timely on-time New York State Budget with reforms to eliminate closed door negotiations.
10. We support Federal and State government reforms that would eliminate all unfunded mandates by the governments that issued the mandates unless they fully fund them.

A Grange is encouraged to cover in depth any of the above issues as topics for a Lecturer's program or public meetings coordinated by the Legislative and Community Involvement chairpersons of a Grange. Local leaders from various groups are available to educate the Grange and the public on these issues. Please feel free to use them.

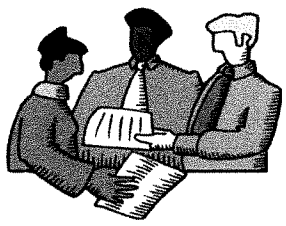
Grange leaders are reminded that these priorities may change during the program year following our state Grange convention in October 2026. The new list of priorities will be publicized in early 2027.



BEING PART OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS:

The legislative work of the Grange is a wonderful tool that can be utilized to reach out to your community to join in the work of the Grange in this area. A Grange that is involved is well informed on local, state, and national issues. Be sure that topics are important to your Grange and the community. If they know you are trying to make things better, then it may encourage others to want to join the effort.

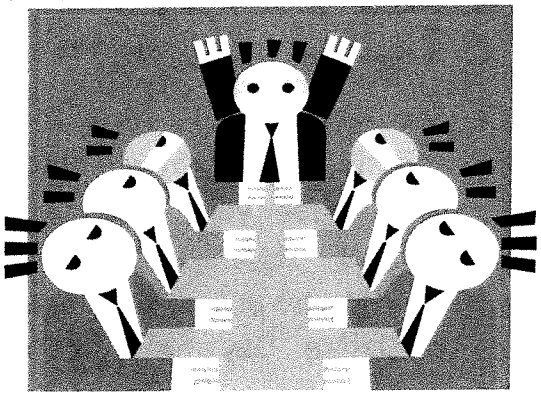
1. Each Legislative Chairman should give a report at each meeting. Outlining issues that members should be aware of, activities of the State and National Grange in their efforts to effect change in their respective legislatures.
2. Listen to the discussion and gain information as to how your members feel about a particular issue. Gather background information that will be useful in supporting your position.
3. Write a resolution to present to your Grange. After a discussion of the resolution, the Grange can choose to accept or reject the resolutions. Don't be disheartened if they don't approve of it the first time. Again, learn from the discussion and change the resolution accordingly. Don't be offended if changes are suggested. It will help to make the resolution stronger.
4. Send your adopted resolution to your Pomona Grange along with all your background reference materials.
5. The Pomona Chairperson will coordinate the discussion of the resolutions at that level. The same process will be followed at the Pomona level. If the resolution is approved, it should be forwarded to the State Grange Legislative Director, with all background materials, for consideration at the annual State Grange convention.
6. Be sure that you consult the New York State Grange Legislative Policy handbook, developed each year, so that your position is not currently covered by current policy. These positions cover issues for five years and are determined by delegates at the annual convention. They can also be found on our website: www.nysgrange.org.
7. Be sure to let the community know what you are doing. Use your local newspaper, radio, or television, if possible. Share the information.
8. Please let your local and state governmental representatives know what issues that your Grange is supporting or opposing. It is important that you attend the annual State Legislative Day held at our Grange Headquarters in Cortland in the last Saturday in September.
9. Participate in the legislative email blasts that encourage members to send emails or written letters sharing the Grange's position on important issues being considered in our State and Federal governments. Please visit the New York State Grange's website to provide your email address for this important tool.
10. Share your activities with the State Legislative Director. This allows for sharing your successes with Grangers across the state.

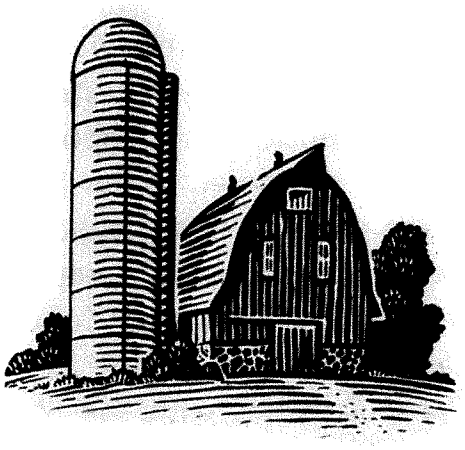


ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCES:

The annual legislative conference is being held on the fourth Saturday of September at our headquarters in Cortland. It is customary to distribute/email the resolution

packets for the State Grange convention to Delegates-at-Large prior to or at the State Legislative Day. This gives each delegate adequate time to review the resolutions and prepare for the State Grange.





STATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR:

Cindy Benson-Pollard
401 Charles Avenue
Syracuse, NY 13209

Phone: 315-413-9335 after 1 PM
Email: cbenson81@msn.com
Please put "Grange" in the subject line.

Resolutions for consideration by State Grange are to be sent to the above address by September 1st for that year's State Convention to be held in October.

HOW TO WRITE A RESOLUTION

Clear, concise title:

While a resolution need not have a title when it is submitted to Pomona or State Grange, a title from the originating body is helpful. It can be modified as the resolution moves along to higher bodies. If there is no title for a resolution once it reaches the State Legislative Director, one will be assigned.

Whereas sections:

State the problem or concern in the first section. ***State facts, not opinions!!*** Note that 'WHEREAS," is capitalized; and a comma is followed by "and" at the end of each paragraph.

Each fact should be a separate paragraph, preceded by "WHEREAS," and the last paragraph ends with "therefore be it."

Resolve section:

Calls for the desired action and by whom the action is required... usually in support of some action or opposing some action. If there is more than one action or solution requested, tie them together with the words "and be it further" at the end of the first "Resolve" section. Properly written, this paragraph is a summary of action desired and policy to be set. REMEMBER, the resolution resolve section(s) should make sense if none of the WHEREAS sections are present. Read the RESOLVE to see that the full meaning is clear when standing alone.

Signature/Date:

A resolution submitted to a higher level of Grange or to elected officials should be signed by two Grange leaders: Grange

Master (President), Grange Secretary and/or Legislative Chairperson of that Grange. If the Grange can provide a Grange seal on the document, it is all the better, but it is not required. The date in the lower left-hand corner is suggested so that the body receiving the resolution will know when the Grange adopted this position.

It is suggested that resolutions pass from Subordinate (Community) Granges through Pomona Granges and then, when adopted at that level, to be forwarded to State Grange when the issue is of state or national significance.

As the deadline for submission of resolutions to State Grange is September 1st of each year, a resolution from a Subordinate (Community) Grange must go directly to State Grange when there is no meeting of the respective Pomona Grange prior to the State Grange convention in October.

Resolutions submitted to State Grange are to be sent directly to the Legislative Director at her home address:

Cindy Benson-Pollard
401 Charles Avenue
Syracuse, NY 13209

DISTRICT DIALOGUE

Subordinate/Community Granges or Pomona Granges are encouraged to arrange a visit to their State Senator and/or State Assemblyman's office sometime during the year. During the Legislative Session (January through June), state-elected representatives are generally in Albany Monday through Thursday each week. The best ways to arrange a visit to the home office would be either Friday or Saturday.

Be prepared to discuss a few issues that your Grange is more interested in. Ask for the elected representative's opinion. Encourage their sponsorship of legislation that would bring about the desired action. If their opinion differs from the Grange's position, gather more information to share with your members back home which may influence a resolution to reverse our Grange position. Maybe you can encourage them to reverse their opinion if it is different from the Grange's stand.

Above all, thank them for their time and for getting acquainted with members from the local Grange. You might have a copy of the current State Grange Policy Manual and the current year's priorities that you could leave with them. Encourage them to continue the dialogue if they would like an opinion on other issues that they deal with.

RESOURCES

www.NationalGrange.org
www.nysgrange.org
www.senate.state.ny.us
www.assembly.state.ny.us
Empire State Granger
National Grange Alerts
National Grange View from the Hill
Community and Rural Development Institute

