



**New York State Correctional Officers
& Police Benevolent Association, Inc.**

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Legislative Department

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Legislative Department Overview

The legislative department at NYSCOPBA is comprised of a team including the Legislative Director, Legislative/Political Action Committee, NYSCOPBA attorneys and professional and highly regarded lobbyists. The legislative department is charged with carrying out the legislative agenda as determined by the stakeholders of the organization. The legislative team works in partnership with the Executive Board and the membership to ensure that NYSCOPBA members are properly represented before the legislative and executive branches of government. We utilize the legislative process to obtain legislation that supports our members' rights, working conditions, safety, wages, and all other areas of concern. The success of the legislative department is largely dependant on membership input and membership participation is of the utmost importance.

Each year, the NYSCOPBA legislative department drafts new legislation to be introduced, seeks Senate and Assembly sponsorships, and aggressively lobbies the legislature for the passage of our legislation. We then work to have our bills signed into law by the Executive. We continuously monitor legislative activity throughout the legislative session, and beyond, and issue memorandums in support or opposition, as needed. The legislative department is charged with membership education and training, preparing annual testimony for budget hearings, and maintaining a direct and continuous relationship with the New York State legislators.

Each year, thousands of bills are introduced to the legislature. Of those, only a small number are acted on, and even fewer pass both houses and are sent to the Governor to be signed into law or vetoed. Together, with our professional lobbyists, we have consistently shown results through the many bills that have been signed into law since the inception of NYSCOPBA. NYSCOPBA has made an undeniable impact on the legislative process and achieved our incredible results through membership participation, membership education and training, and the proper use of our financial resources. Our relationships with legislators are built on respect, honesty, and professionalism. We keep in direct contact with the legislators year-round and inform them of issues as they arise and work with them to address continuing concerns.

Membership participation is encouraged through a variety of activities. Members can participate in statewide seminars and trainings, lobby days, voter registration drives, and volunteer on campaigns throughout the state to support the candidates who support NYSCOPBA's initiatives. We encourage all members to contact their state legislators on a regular basis by calling, visiting, or writing letters to express your concerns and/or show your support. The legislative department can assist the members in setting up the meetings, introductions and talking points, and providing a wide-variety of useful information for political action purposes.

With the continuous attacks on public employees and the organizations that represent them, there is no better time to get involved. Membership participation is crucial to the success of our union. Our victories would not be possible without the support and participation of the membership. Get involved and make a difference for all of the NYSCOPBA members across the state. Keep up to date on the department's webpage at <http://www.nyscopba.org/legislative>

Political Action Contributions Policy & Procedures¹

- The NYSCOPBA PAC account shall be funded by the amount approved in the annual budget. The PAC Treasurer and Association Treasurer will see to it that this account complies with all State and Federal laws
- NYSCOPBA's President shall serve as the Political Action Fund Treasurer.
- Contributions to PAC's shall be by the PAC Treasurer only after consultation with the Association President, Executive Vice President, and Legislative Political Action Committee Chairperson and legislative Counsel. This does not preclude membership input. A report of such contributions shall be made at each scheduled meeting of the Executive Board, Legislative Political Action Committee meeting and Executive Assembly.
- Contributions are limited to statewide races; Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Comptroller, Attorney General; or State Senate, State Assembly, County Sheriff, County District Attorney or County Judge; or any Association member in good standing seeking political office.
- A Legislative Political Action committee report will be made at each regularly scheduled Executive Assembly that will include the balance in the NYSCOPBA PAC account, the amount of money deposited since last report, total expenditures since last report, and a year-to-date expenditure report.²
- Contributions to NYSCOPBA members running for political office shall be \$500 upon receipt of a written request and verification of their candidacy.³

Political Endorsements Policy & Procedures⁴

- Association endorsements shall be limited to statewide races; Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Comptroller, Attorney General; or State Senate, State Assembly, County Sheriff, County District Attorney or County Judge; or any Association member in good standing seeking political office.
- Candidates seeking the Association's endorsement will be evaluated based on the criteria including, but not limited to past political performance; voting record, if an incumbent;

¹ Adopted by NYSCOPBA's Executive Assembly on October 4, 2006

² Amended by motion at Executive Assembly on August 8, 2012

³ Increased from \$250 by motion to amend at Executive Assembly on December, 11, 2013

⁴ Amended by motion at Executive Assembly on October 12, 2016

record of support or opposition to the needs of the association; and/or the interest of that candidate in having NYSCOPBA's endorsement.

- Association sectors are not permitted to endorse candidates.
- When a request for an endorsement for political office is received by the Association, the request shall be put before the Legislative/PAC Committee for consideration of an Association endorsement. The Committee's recommendation shall be put before the Executive Board for further consideration.
- If the Executive Board determines that an endorsement is warranted, a poll of the Association's affected membership will be conducted in accordance with Article IV, Reservation of Members' Rights of the Association's Constitution.

In the event that the Association conducts a poll for the endorsement of a candidate for political office, such poll shall be conducted by the Election Committee of NYSCOPBA. The count of the endorsement poll shall be open for viewing to any member of NYSCOPBA in good standing.

Attendance at Political Fundraisers Policy and Procedures

- Attendance at political fundraisers by NYSCOPBA officers, officials, employees, and members acting as agents of NYSCOPBA shall be coordinated by the Legislative Director or the Association President. The legislative Director shall consult with the appropriate elected officials and Legislative Political Action Chairperson when coordinating attendance at these events.
- All NYSCOPBA attendees will present themselves and their issues in a manner which is conducive with that of the Association's legislative agenda and overall mission and purpose.