

August 20th Meeting with Stacey Abrams-from State Legislature

General Information:

1. There is NO ONE that we should not be talking to! They listen to people who call! They are interested in what they are told to be interested in. So CONTACT them, and contact them frequently!
2. SPEAK UP!!!! AND EDUCATE-they doesn't know as much as they should know about many issues. Be very specific:
 - a. What is the issue? Why is it an issue? Why should we care?
 - b. Show up. Don't write. Get in their faces.
 - i. Email –don't send same email over and over again-otherwise the emails will simply be deleted without being read. Send different types of emails.
 - ii. One Phone call-may be ignored, but not if many people leave voicemails.
 - iii. BEST WAY-show up in person
 - a. Before the legislative session starts contact everyone!
 - b. Use this time to say hello and INFORM.
 - c. When the session starts then you start talking about money. Give specifics and make sure that EVERY ONE is ON the SAME Page. EVERYONE needs to use the same \$ figures.
3. Show up at education committee and appropriation committees. Know EVERY member. Higher education subcommittee as well in both education and appropriation committees. The entire committee votes on something. So need to know everyone. Make connections about everything. For example, connect why helping parents help kids. Especially talk to chairs.
4. We need 91 votes in each house for us.
5. Need to focus on 2 things-resources and structural things. In this economy, probably won't get \$ so focus on structure.
6. Invite legislative members to events, invite them to speak. Make them keynote speaker. Give them awards. Ask them to come to the classes to give talks. Especially in small towns!
7. Materials to give:
 - a. Key talking points
8. May be good idea to have someone from Senate side to come talk to us, like Stacey did.

Specific Information:

1. Pre-session:
 - Make contact with EVERY legislative member!
2. Session:

- Focus on appropriate committee and subcommittee members. START with subs and Chair of overall committee then meet with overall committee members.
 - Remind them who you are and bring lots of people with you.
 - Go to committee meetings posted on web.
 - Get to know the secretaries, be friendly!
 - Try to meet the speaker. If one of us is from Paulding County that could be of help-speaker is from Paulding County.
 - Know the minority leader
3. Some specific people we should talk to:
 - Kathy Ash-Secretary of House Democratic Caucus
 - Millar-very big proponent of technical and adult
 - Earl Earhart-Cobb County, chair of Rules Committee
 - Nan Orrock-Senator from Atlanta
 - Horasina Tate-Senate
 4. Others we should talk to:
 - Secretary of Education-come in with specific requests
 - Governor's Office-come in with specific requests
 5. Follow-up! After legislature does what we ask for or doesn't contact everyone again. Thank or share disappointment.
 - a. Individually go back to EVERYONE. (look at how people voted)
 - b. Do report card and publicize it! Report on legislature, and chambers of commerce (have money, clout, etc). EVERY chamber of commerce should know us and be afraid of us. Make appointments and do everything noted above with chambers of commerce. They are VERY powerful and have influence on state legislatures. Include both groups on report card.
 - c. Use neighborhood newspapers to share report card.
 - d. Use Internet to share report card.
 - e. If necessary don't vote for that person again. Send post cards out to community to say why don't vote for this person-they didn't help us. Send post cards out if someone voted well. **But** don't do negative UNLESS have large support already.
 - f. Have a mailing list of thousands (2000 over) of people who care about this issue (we may have this if count students, etc).
 9. Economic Development budgets-we can probably fit into this. What is cost of low literacy to the state? We need money for economic development for GA. Though of course, no money in the next few years...
 10. Get a lobbyist. Nonprofits can get lobbyists often at cheaper rates. (at least 10-100,000 dollars).

Timeline:

- Session starts: 2nd Monday in January.

- 40 working days stretched out over many months. Can stay until late spring.
- Need to pass the budget for following year (July 1st start). Also, need to review how current budget is doing.
- First half of session, figuring out what to do with current budget. Then figure out new budget. Hearings for new budget start in Nov/Dec.
- During election year, don't talk about it until January.
- Between January and April ONLY ask for specific things-don't inform.
- During election year, bad months = July and November. Though if have events, invite everyone-they will want to show up. They will come out-just don't go to them!