Governor's Cabinet & Lobbyist Section

Overview

The Governor's Cabinet and Lobbyist section offer one of the most unforgettable experiences available at the State Conference, allowing its member delegates to participate in the legislative process from the unique perspective. Although they do not present their own bills, governor's cabinet members and lobbyists have the privilege of being able to speak in favor of or against bills presented during chamber sessions. Participants are expected to engage professionally with one another in discussing legislation.

Governor's Cabinet members are seasoned delegates who work directly with the Youth Governor. The Youth Governor sets the legislative priorities and agenda for the State Conference. Members will work collaboratively to lobby in the legislative chambers to advocate for the Youth Govenor's agenda, which is composed of specific bills or issues they would like to see debated and acted upon.

Lobbyists are veteran delegates who can contribute to legislative debates by advocating to legislators on bills and representing their own and other delegates' interests during debates. Our goal for our Lobbyist section is for participants to engage professionally with one another in discussing legislation about which the Youth Governor is passionate and to persuade legislative delegates to align with the lobbyists views of the bill. They will also develop debate and technical skills related to lobbying or working in the state government. Lobbyists are given much freedom throughout State Conference, including moving between legislative rooms in the hotel and/or the Capitol, and thus are expected to respect all officers, delegates, and staff.

Governor's Cabinet and Lobbyist members must have at least one year of Legislative experience. The application to participate in this section opens during State Conference registration in December. Delegates should review the criteria below before applying.

LOBBYIST SECTION MANUAL

Expectations

1. Prospective Lobbyists are identified and notified prior to the state conference. **They are expected to have participated in the Legislative section for at least one year prior to applying and must be registered as Legislative delegates for the current program year.**
2. All lobbyists must attend the section orientation at the state conference.
3. All lobbyists must participate in the legislative process during the State Conference.
4. Lobbyists are encouraged to oppose the Governor's legislative agenda. For bills on which the Governor has no position, the Lobbyists support their own agenda.

Regulations

1. Lobbyists may not wander, sit, or loiter in the Capitol or hotel. Lobbyists must be lobbying or remain in the Senate Press Room/Designated Hotel Area.
2. All lobbyists must arrive and return to the Senate Press Room on time.
3. During committees, lobbyists have the same speaking rights as other delegates. They may speak on a bill, speak with authors or other delegates, etc. However, during chamber sessions, lobbyists do not have floor speaking privileges and they are unable to vote.
4. Lobbyists may bring two students into the hall to speak with them. This meeting may not last longer than five minutes. If permission is not granted, lobbyists may not ask students to leave the chamber.
5. Lobbyists must ask delegates if they are willing to leave the room to speak with lobbyists. Delegates may decline and if they do so, lobbyists must respect that decision
6. Prohibited actions include
    a. **Bribery:** A lobbyist may not use unofficial bribery to make gains in passing or failing a bill. This includes but is not limited to payment, food or drink, and promises of removing delegates from chambers for free time. A lobbyist <u>may</u> tell a delegate that if the delegate votes for a certain bill, the lobbyist will help the delegate pass a separate bill.

b. **Disruption:** A lobbyist may not enter the chamber floor. Lobbyists will retrieve delegates quietly and respectfully. A lobbyist may view the chamber from the wings. Any form of disruption (e.g. written signs) will not be tolerated. When a lobbyist enters a committee, he or she should not speak until called upon by the chair.

Possible Lobbyist Positions

Chief Lobbyist

The responsibilities of the Chief Lobbyist includes:

1. Identify state or federal legislative and executive branch proposals and policies impact
2. Monitor the progress of legislation throughout the legislative process
3. Develop and implement appropriate strategies and tactics to achieve desired outcomes through direct lobbying and coalition building with legislative delegates
4. Identify lobbyists' interests and delegate tasks as needed to influence legislation

GOVERNOR'S CABINET SECTION MANUAL

Expectations

1. Prospective cabinet members are identified and notified prior to the state conference. **They are expected to have participated in the Legislative section for at least one year prior to applying and must be registered as Legislative delegates for the current program year.**
2. All Governor's Cabinet members must attend the orientation section at the state conference.
3. All Governor's Cabinets must participate in the legislative process during the State Conference, monitoring legislation and engaging with legislators.
4. Cabinet members must support and advise the Governor's legislative agenda.
5. The Youth Governor can appoint one cabinet member for the senate calendar committee and two to the house calendar committee. The appointed members will be responsible for advocating for the Youth Governor's legislative agenda to determine the bill docket for the House and Senate

Regulations

1. Governor's Cabinet members may not wander, sit, or loiter in the Capitol or hotel. Lobbyists must be lobbying or remain in the Senate Press Room/Designated Hotel Area.
2. All governor's cabinet members must arrive and return to the Senate Press Room on time.
3. During the committee meetings, Governor's cabinet members have the same speaking rights as other delegates. They may speak on a bill, speak with authors or other delegates, etc. However, during chamber sessions, lobbyists do not have floor speaking privileges and are unable to vote.
4. Governor's cabinet members may bring two students into the hall to speak with them. This meeting may not last longer than five minutes. If permission is not granted, lobbyists may not ask students to leave the chamber.

5. Governor's cabinet members must ask delegates if they are willing to leave the room to speak with lobbyists. Delegates may decline and if they do so, lobbyists must respect that decision
6. Prohibited actions include:
    c. **Bribery:** A Governor's cabinet member may not use unofficial bribery to make gains in passing or failing a bill. This includes but is not limited to payment, food or drink, and promises of removing delegates from chambers for free time. A lobbyist may tell a delegate that if the delegate votes for a certain bill, the lobbyist will help the delegate pass a separate bill.
    d. **Disruption:** A Governor's cabinet may not enter the chamber floor. Lobbyists will retrieve delegates quietly and respectfully. A lobbyist may view the chamber from the wings. Any form of disruption (e.g. written signs) will not be tolerated. When a lobbyist enters a committee, he or she should not speak until called upon by the chair.

Possible Cabinet Positions

The Youth Governor will have the discretion to appoint cabinet members to fulfill various roles and responsibilities, ensuring the effective execution of their priorities and agenda.

Chief of Staff

The Chief of Staff is the leader of the governor's administration and assists in overseeing all Cabinet members. The Youth Governor should select this individual based on several factors including their experience and familiarity with the legislative process, corresponding political priorities, time commitment, relationship with the Governor, and strong leadership ability

The responsibilities of the Chief of Staff include:

1. Leads and oversees all legislative, policy, and communications strategies for the office of the Youth Governor
2. Serves as the Youth Governor's primary policy advisor, developing and implementing strategies and plans for the governorship
3. Assists the Youth Governor in screening applications and appointing Governor's Cabinet member

Press Secretary/Communications Director

The Press Secretary/Communications Director is the leader in managing, coordinating, and relaying the Youth Governor's voice and viewpoints on legislative issues. The Youth Governor should select this individual based on several factors including their experience and familiarity with the legislative process,

Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Press Secretary/Communications Director include:

1. Manages and coordinates press activities, including media contacts for the Youth Governor
2. Acts as the formal spokesperson and media liaison for the Youth Governor
3. Develop and implements media, communications and public relations strategies for the Youth Governor
4. Plans and executes press conferences as the discretion of the Youth Governor