IA State Advocate Program

Program Goals

This program aims to grow the Irrigation Association’s state advocacy by engaging members and expanding grassroots activism at the state level. The program will recruit member volunteers to track and respond to state-level legislative and regulatory developments. These “advocates” will be supported by IA staff and the IA government affairs committee to achieve these goals.

Importantly, we aim to supplement the advocacy efforts of state and local associations where they exist. In states with an irrigation-focused association, the IA team and state advocates will coordinate and collaborate on advocacy efforts.

We are seeking IA members to serve as state advocates. Candidates should be:
• passionate about the industry
• interested in learning about and contributing to industry advocacy efforts
• willing to serve as a volunteer and work with the IA

You do not need to have advocacy experience to participate in this program.

Becoming a State Advocate

Application and confirmation process:
• Members interested in participating in the program will fill out a short online application.
• IA staff will review each application and schedule a conference call interview.
• The government affairs committee chair will select and appoint state advocates, subject to the approval of the government affairs committee.
• The committee may approve up to 2 participants per state.

Volunteer Term and Responsibilities

Advocates serve 2-year terms. Terms can be extended in 2-year increments. IA will announce an open call for applicants on an annual basis (for states with available positions).

State advocates commit to:
• Tracking legislative and regulatory developments in their state.
• Participating in monthly check-in call with an IA staff member while the state legislature is in session.
• Additional calls on an as needed basis (as new legislative/regulatory developments occur).
• Quarterly conference calls coordinated by IA with all advocates to share information, experiences, and state legislative/policy trends.
Member Feedback

**We are seeking your feedback!** Please send your comments and questions to Senior Government & Public Affairs Manager Sarah Roth at sarahroth@irrigation.org.

We are interested in your thoughts on the following questions:

- Is there anything important missing from this program?
- Should the IA offer onboarding and continuous training to volunteers? If so, what topics should we cover?
- Is there anything we could add to the program that would make it more valuable to participants?