



# **BEST PRACTICES FOR FUTURE CAUCUS SUCCESS**

**STATE FUTURE CAUCUS NETWORK**

# MANAGING YOUR FUTURE CAUCUS



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# ACTIVATE YOUR CAUCUS

## Goals for a Future Caucus

### A Future Caucus...

- Advances bipartisan, future-oriented legislation on issues that disproportionately affect the Millennial and future generations
- Identifies and leads on issues with measurable data and results-oriented solutions
- Fosters innovative and futuristic thinking with a culture of creative, post-partisan collaboration
- Encourages youth engagement and outreach during policy development

## Caucus Leadership

### ✓ Motivate & Engage

All caucuses are led by a bipartisan pair (or more) of state legislators. Co-chairs serve as the driving force behind the caucus by keeping members motivated and building caucus momentum.

### ✓ Organize & Report

The most important responsibilities of the co-chairs are to lead the process of planning caucus activities and reporting caucus progress to MAP staff.

### ✓ Replenish Leadership

As co-chairs near the end of an agreed upon leadership term, they must coordinate with MAP to identify and replenish leadership.

## Social Activities

The caucus should organize caucus activities to strengthen inter-caucus relationships.

- Volunteer together
- Host a happy hour
- Support your local sports teams
- Plan a district swap
- Start an intramural team



# ACTIVATE YOUR CAUCUS

## Caucus Membership

### ✓ Opt-Out vs. Opt-In

State caucuses traditionally take an 'opt-out' approach and invite all state legislators 40 and under to participate in caucus activities. Establishing an 'opt-in' approach is an option if that better suits the caucus' needs. Caucus co-chairs should communicate membership qualifications and expectations to all eligible legislators.

### ✓ Age Limit

State caucuses typically consider all state legislators ages 40 and under to be eligible for caucus membership. In special circumstances, caucus membership is extended to state legislators ages 45 and under.

### ✓ District Composition & Interests

Legislators with a special interest in the needs of future generations, and those elected officials representing a uniquely high number of young people, are also encouraged to participate in caucus activities.

## MAP TIP

During session, the most effective caucuses meet on a weekly basis. Caucuses should develop annual plans identifying priority issues, ways the caucus will support legislation, potential community events, and more.

## Meetings

✓ Set ground rules to standardize expectations among all members.

✓ Ensure meeting agendas include discussions on policy interests of members, legislative advancements, and caucus events.

✓ After caucus meetings, circulate meeting minutes to members in attendance, members unable to attend, and MAP staff.

✓ Develop a plan for next steps to keep members engaged and maintain caucus momentum.



# CHOOSE PRIORITY ISSUES

Caucus leadership should provide guidance in developing priority issues with potential for bipartisan momentum.

## Criteria To Consider

- Issues with high importance to the state's long-term interests
- Issues where young people hold a unique perspective to reframe the debate in future-oriented terms
- Issues fostering innovative opportunities for collaboration across the political spectrum
- Issues with potential for success but lacking legislative champions

### MAP TIP

Caucus members can agree to invite policy experts or request that MAP organize a policy briefing with an expert individual or organization.

## Priority Issues

The following issues have gained momentum across the SFCN and have seen bipartisan, legislative success.



### Strengthening Democracy

To encourage civic engagement, especially among younger generations, we must rebuild the public's trust in government. States are on the front lines of developing innovative solutions to today's democracy reform issues and restoring voter confidence. Legislative examples include:

- Government accountability, ethics, and transparency
- Access to voting and redistricting reform

# CHOOSE PRIORITY ISSUES



## Criminal Justice Reform

Through an extensive listening tour with millennial state legislators, MAP has identified four areas within Criminal Justice Reform that are ripe for bipartisan reform: court fines and fees, recidivism reduction, justice reinvestment, and sentencing reform. To address these issues, MAP brought together four Democrats and four Republicans from across the country to create the Criminal Justice Reform Advisory Council. This council has advised MAP staff on policies, webinars, and policy products. Legislative examples championed by the Council include:

- Eliminating mandatory minimum sentencing
- Eliminating court fines and fees
- Establishing career training for those incarcerated to reduce recidivism



## Energy and Environment

Through the Energy Learning Network (ELN), MAP connects young lawmakers across state and party lines to modernize energy production, grid infrastructure, and environmental protections that improve Americans' quality of life. These efforts illuminate the overarching post-partisan commitment to building a resilient and vibrant America, prepared to lead the world with innovative and daring solutions to changing energy needs and a new generation of conservation. The ELN is organized for members to share their experiences, expertise, and approaches to initiatives appropriate for them in their state. Legislative examples include:

- Clean Energy Jobs programs
- Comprehensive grid modernization
- Microgrid allocations to eligible applicants
- Funding the transition to electric motor vehicles

# CHOOSE PRIORITY ISSUES



## Attracting & Retaining Young Talent

Millennial “Brain Drain” is the exodus of young professionals and recent graduates from the states where they attend educational institutions. This presents a unique opportunity for legislators seeking to attract and retain talent by encouraging young people to root themselves outside of major US cities. Legislative examples include:

- Tax incentives as a path to home ownership
- State specific merit-based scholarship and loan relief programs



## Higher Education & Student Debt

Student loan debt in the U.S. has ballooned to \$1.5 trillion, making it the second highest source of consumer debt in the country. For 44 million borrowers across the country, this worsening burden threatens long-term financial stability and can pose serious, life-long obstacles. Legislative examples include:

- Affordability and accessibility of higher education, educational opportunities
- Borrowers' rights for student loans
- Higher education debt relief and economic opportunity



## The Future of Work

Millennials make up nearly 40% of the nearly 60 million Americans in the 'gig economy.' As freelancers and gig workers too often serve as their own safety net in the absence of traditional employment benefits, this growing trend calls for new policy ideas. Legislative examples include:

- Workforce development and training for 21st century skills
- Portable benefits and the modernization of worker protections



# INTRODUCE & SUPPORT BILLS

The ultimate measure of success for Future Caucuses is to enact bipartisan, future-oriented legislation.

## MAP TIP

In its annual plan, the caucus should develop guidelines for the endorsement of bills. These guidelines should answer questions such as “Do bills need unanimous support, or a simple majority, to be endorsed by the caucus?” and “In what ways will the caucus support legislation?”

## Support legislation

Caucuses should identify opportunities to advance legislation. Below are ways a Future Caucus can support its legislative agenda. Examples of caucus support are listed in the appendices.

- ✓ Coordinate Future Caucus members on bipartisan, co-sponsorship of legislation
- ✓ Write a letter of support from the caucus or caucus leadership
- ✓ Position the caucus on a coalition of organizations in support of a bill
- ✓ Provide testimony on Future Caucus legislation
- ✓ Hold a press conference on legislative advancements
- ✓ Host a signing day ceremony with the Governor
- ✓ Organize an event to build community support

## Report to MAP

Caucus co-chairs should communicate with MAP staff at least twice a month to share:

- Legislation the caucus is drafting or supporting
- A readout on previous meetings and plans for upcoming meetings
- Plans for other future caucus activities
- Changes in leadership or membership criteria
- Any media related to caucus priority legislation or activities
- How MAP staff can be of assistance in caucus maintenance and development



# AMPLIFY CAUCUS IMPACT

## Community Engagement

MAP is available to co-host engagement events with the caucus. Community activities should be organized to guide the caucus in issue awareness and amplify the caucus' presence in the community. Some examples include:



Reverse town-hall with local community members



Day-long Millennial policy summit at the statehouse



Voter registration drive



Red and Blue Dialogue



Issue-focused panel discussion with expert organizations



Luncheon with young professional groups to crowdsource ideas

# PLAN FOR SUCCESS

Early in each session, Future Caucuses should develop an annual plan for success. Please complete and submit the information below to MAP staff for review and approval.

## MAP TIP

Caucuses have a limited amount of financial support allocated for caucus development. Be sure to let MAP staff know in advance if there is a request for financial assistance to support caucus activities.

- ✓ List bipartisan leadership to serve through the current legislative session:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ What are the qualifications for caucus membership?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ What is the caucus meeting schedule and what are the meeting guidelines?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ What are priority issues or specific bills the caucus plans to address?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ In what ways will the caucus will support legislation?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ What community activities will the caucus organize to build support for issues or legislation?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ How can MAP support your Future Caucus?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# KEEP IN TOUCH

## *For more information on the SFCN and MAP:*

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## *Connect with MAP on social media:*



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# APPENDICIES

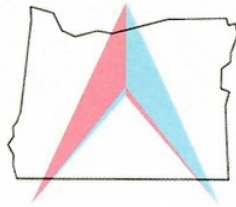
-  Appendix A: Caucus Endorsement Letter \_\_\_\_\_ Pg. 11
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## MAP TIP \_\_\_\_\_

Contact MAP staff for additional ideas on formatting or utilizing templates.

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# APPENDIX A: CAUCUS ENDORSEMENT LETTER



**OREGON**  
FUTURE CAUCUS

June 6, 2019

Dear Co-Chair Hass and Co-Chair Nathanson,

As the cost of higher education continues to rise, lower income families are disproportionately priced out of accessing one of the most important resources to give them a hand up in life. The use of 529 college savings plans as a tool for helping to manage the costs of college have become more and more common, but unfortunately are not used equally at all income levels. Historical data shows that simply having an account opened makes a student three times more likely to enroll in a job training or college program and four times more likely to complete it. But, unfortunately the current tax deduction for contributions to these plans doesn't benefit all families equally. Only 12% of current account owners are low or moderate income and are also much more likely to be in urban communities.

Treasurer Read's proposal to change the current state tax deduction to a refundable tax credit will create a meaningful reason for low and moderate income families to opt in to a college savings plan. The revised proposal makes changes to the base bill that will make it revenue neutral while also thoughtfully incentivizing the participation of families who can most benefit from making contributions. This is why the Oregon Future Caucus urges you to support HB 2387 and vote it to the floor for consideration. Our whole economy will benefit when we can increase access to higher education and training.

Oregon's Future Caucus is a bicameral, bipartisan group of 12 legislators age 42 and under focused on issues relevant to young people and to the future of our state. Polling data indicates that the majority of young people, regardless of political party, view access to higher education as a "major issue" facing young people in the United States.

Co-Chair Senator Dallas Heard

Co-Chair Representative Julie Fahey

Co-Vice Chair Representative Diego Hernandez

Co-Vice Chair Representative David Brock Smith



# APPENDIX B: COALITION PARTICIPATION



OREGON  
STATE  
TREASURY

## Education Savings Credit

Included in the -11 Amendment to HB 2164

Every child in Oregon should have the opportunity to graduate from our K-12 schools ready for college, training, or a career pathway. Pursuing post-secondary education shouldn't result in crushing debt that limits financial security and hurts our economy.

**We should expand the promise of post-secondary education and job training to more low- and moderate-income Oregonians. The Education Savings Credit will be an important component of the state's affordability and accessibility strategies.**

The Education Savings Credit will incentivize all Oregonians to save and invest in a College Savings Plan or ABLE account, but the tax benefit will be tiered in accordance with financial need. The goal is to help people save early so they have to borrow less.

Education and training after high school should be accessible to all Oregonians—regardless of the numbers in their family's zip code or their bank account. We believe in kids from underrepresented communities, kids from rural Oregon, and every kid in our state who just needs an opportunity.

Let's show all Oregon kids that we believe in them.

#BelieveInOregonKids



LatinoNetwork



# APPENDIX C: LEGISLATION ENDORSEMENT LETTER



## Mississippi Future Caucus Endorses HB 1550

**CAPITOL** - On Wednesday, Feb. 14, the Mississippi House of Representatives passed legislation to address the exodus of recent college graduates from the state of Mississippi, a problem that has come to be known as Mississippi's "brain drain."

Under House Bill 1550, recent college graduates could file for a tax deduction within one year of graduating from a four-year college or university. Those graduates would be entitled to this deduction for up to three consecutive years if they remained a resident and employee in the state of Mississippi, and an additional two years if they purchased property in the state of Mississippi for residential or commercial use.

"It is incredibly encouraging to see the Mississippi House of Representatives taking steps to reverse the evacuation of our best and brightest," said Representative Jeramey Anderson, Co-Chairman of the Mississippi Future Caucus, a bipartisan caucus made up of legislators under the age of 40. "I hope the Senate will follow suit and show our young people that we will take care of them here in Mississippi."

The bill's author, Representative Trey Lamar, is also a member of the Mississippi Future Caucus, which has heavily endorsed the legislation.

The bill received bipartisan support and passed the House unanimously. It will now be sent to the Senate for consideration.

***Members of the Mississippi Future Caucus includes:***

*Demoratic Co-Chairman Rep. Jeramey Anderson*  
*Republican Co-Chairman Rep. Roun McNeal*  
*Secretary Rep. Shane Barnett*

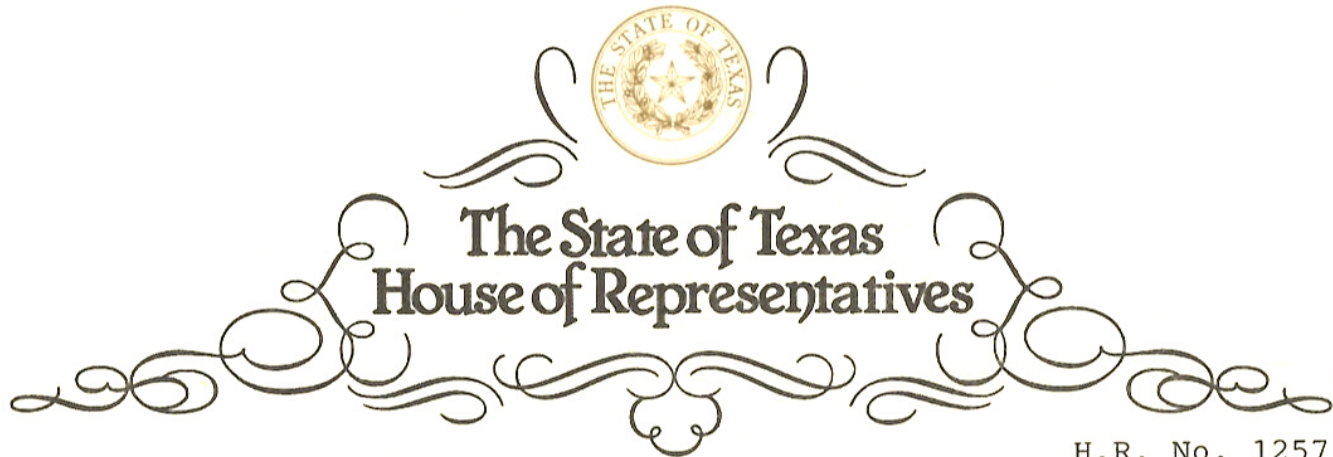
***Members:***

*Rep. Joel Bomgar, Rep. Jarvis Dortch, Rep. Robert Foster, Rep. Lataisha Jackson, Rep. Chris Johnson, Rep. John Trey Lamar, Rep. Orlando Paden, Rep. Noah Sanford, Rep. Brad Touchstone, Sen. Jennifer Branning, Sen. Joel Carter Jr.*

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# APPENDIX D: CAPITOL DAY RESOLUTION



H.R. No. 1257

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Members of young professional organizations, student governments, and other youth groups from around the state are gathering at the Capitol in Austin on May 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Young people are among our most important resources and will contribute greatly to the state's prosperity in the years ahead; gatherings such as today's Young Texans Day enable emerging leaders to network, to learn from one another, and to develop vital career skills; and

WHEREAS, With the 86th Legislative Session well under way, the Capitol is a source of bustling political activity, offering visitors an excellent opportunity to see their state government in action; the civic-minded young Texans attending this event have demonstrated commendable initiative and enthusiasm, traits that will serve them well throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS, By strengthening their professional ties and building on their knowledge about the democratic process, these dynamic young Texans are helping to create a brighter and more promising future for all; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize May 1, 2019, as Young Texans Day at the State Capitol and extend to all those visiting best wishes for an engaging and informative day in Austin.

Bucy



# APPENDIX E: MILLENNIAL EVENT AGENDA



## Iowa in Action: Governing and Politics in the Hawkeye State

Saturday, July 13, 2019 | #IowaInAction  
State Historical Society of Iowa, 600 E Locust Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319

- 12:00 — 12:30 PM**      **Welcome remarks from the Chicago IOP and MAP**
- 12:30 — 1:20 PM**      **Path to Public Service**  
*Panel featuring Iowa Future Caucus Leadership discussing their journeys to public service and their experiences being young people in the state legislature.*
- 1:30 — 2:20 PM**      **Why Iowa? Redistricting, Courts, and the Country**  
*Panel with experts from the Harkin Institute at Drake University discussing Iowa's unique nonpartisan reapportionment process (redistricting) and its national implications.*
- 2:30 — 4:20 PM**      **Breakout Sessions – Two 50 minute sessions with a 10 minute break in between**
- Political Track:**
- Lobbying at the Statehouse and Beyond (2:30-3:20pm)**  
*Young lobbyists and elected officials discuss the role of lobbyists in the legislative process and discuss best practices for citizens to influence their representatives.*
- Field of Dreams (3:30-4:20pm)**  
*A panel featuring Democratic and Republican communications staff discussing the nuts and bolts of crafting a message.*
- Journalism Track:**
- Iowa on the Record (2:30-3:20pm)**  
*This panel will touch on different ways the statehouse and caucuses are covered in Iowa, including young legislators discussing leveraging social media to connect with voters, and local journalists' experiences covering the statehouse and 2020 process.*
- Tweets to Talking Points: Crafting a distinct message (3:30-4:20pm)**  
*A panel featuring 2020 campaign communications staff discussing the nuts and bolts of crafting a message*
- 4:20 — 4:30 PM**      **Group wrap-up, photo and transition to reception**
- 5:00 — 7:00 PM**      **Happy Hour reception open to the public**

# APPENDIX F: WI RED & BLUE DIALOGUE GUIDELINES

In 2018, the Millennial Action Project launched a series of community discussions called the “Red and Blue Dialogues.” Piloted in partnership with the Wisconsin Future Caucus, the Red and Blue Dialogues engaged more than 200 community members in post-partisan, community-level discussions. MAP is looking to replicate this model with Future Caucuses across the country and we want you involved.

The purpose of the Red and Blue Dialogue series is to encourage conversations among community members across the aisle, provide elected officials with opportunities to connect with the community in non-partisan environments, and engage constituents on timely topics and legislation. Discussion topics have included bridging the partisan divide, higher education, “fake news,” criminal justice reform, a post-2018 election discussion titled “You voted-now what?” and more.

## Are you interested in hosting a dialogue in your district?

- ✓ **Reach out to MAP**  
Once you express interest in organizing a Dialogue, MAP staff will assist in arranging event logistics including the discussion topic(s), date, and venue. MAP has a limited budget available to assist with event expenses.
- ✓ **Invite your colleagues**  
The success of the event is dependent on conversations between community members from across the political spectrum, as well as bipartisan representation from state legislators. Be sure to invite your colleagues to participate.
- ✓ **Engage the community**  
Following your leadership, MAP will recruit community members from your area.
- ✓ **Participate in the conversation**  
Once the logistics are confirmed, we want you to participate in the panel and roundtable discussions. MAP will compile notes and develop an event report to share with panelists.

# APPENDIX G: MAP'S FUTURE SUMMIT



**SAVE THE DATE**

## 5th Annual Future Summit August 2021

MAP's annual conference is the largest bipartisan gathering of young state elected officials in the US. In today's polarized landscape, there are too few opportunities for lawmakers to engage constructively across the aisle. The Future Summit's ability to build relationships across state and party lines, connect lawmakers with policy experts, and provide the tools legislators need to govern effectively is unparalleled.

We look forward to seeing you at next year's summit!



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