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Proudly Serving Charitable Gambling Organizations Throughout Minnesota

4 Easy Steps To Enhance ACM's Legislative Effectiveness

Over the next several months we'll be hearing a lot of campaign talk and promises from candidates for the Minnesota House of Representatives and Minnesota Senate.

ACM has to get its message out to the candidates to inform and educate them on charitable gaming issues (particularly if you want to see a reduction and/or reform of charitable gaming taxes).

Below are a few simple steps you and your members can take to make sure you are part of the electoral process and to gain additional credibility with your House or Senate member.

Step #1. Get to know your elected officials by inviting candidates in your area to one of your regular monthly meetings in the next few months. Ask them questions about the issues that concern your organization. If they cannot attend one of your regular monthly meetings, ask them to meet with several members of your organization to discuss your issues. Do not, however, publicly endorse any candidate for public office.

Step #2. Let candidates get to know you by briefing them on your concerns and the role your organization plays in your (and their) local community. Remember, many candidates probably don't know much about charitable gaming in Minnesota. Organizations need to educate them about charitable gaming and what it means to your (and their) community.

Step #3. Volunteer to work on legislative campaigns. Working on local campaigns for those who support us is a great way to really get to know your potential legislators and establish a valuable personal relationship. They need help pounding lawn signs, door knocks and literature drops, phoning, mailings, office work, etc.. Volunteer for what you would like to do!

Step #4. Contribute to legislative candidates. Individual personal contributions to a candidate running for office are a part of the political process. If you can afford to do so as an individual, it will be appreciated.

Doing any or all of the above is an investment in your (and our) future. Getting to know those who represent you in St. Paul will greatly enhance your (and our) ability to work with those elected officials during future legislative sessions on important charitable gaming issues.

If you are an exempt organization under 501(c)(3) and have questions about the extent of permissible lobbying activity for your organization, please seek professional advice from a qualified accountant or lawyer.