



## **Governmental and Public Affairs Council**

### **Action Plan**

#### Purpose:

The purpose of this council is to protect and advance public oral health and the interests of the dental profession through strategic public relations, media relations, grassroots advocacy, coalition building, and governmental engagement. By reviewing state legislative activities and other governmental actions, we seek to influence policies that impact dentistry and public oral health. Additionally, we strive to foster beneficial legislation and collaborate with agencies and organizations to develop dental health education programs.

#### Duties:

1. To protect and further the oral health of the public and the interests of the dental profession in matters involving public relations, media relations, grassroots relations, coalition building and governmental relations.
2. To disseminate information which will assist the component societies in their activities involving public affairs.
3. To cooperate with the American Dental Association in matters pertaining to legislation, regulations and public affairs.
4. To review all matters coming before the state legislature, other branches of government and the public which may have an impact upon the practice of dentistry, the oral health of the public, or the members of the dental profession.
5. To foster the enactment of such legislation and regulation as will benefit the oral health of the public, the members of the dental profession and the practice of dentistry.
6. To recommend active members of this Association to the Board of Trustees for submission to the Governor as proposed appointment to the New Jersey State Board of Dentistry. The Board of Trustees shall make recommendations to the Governor, based on vacancies existing at any given time.
7. To assist and cooperate with other agencies, public or private in the development of programs or policies related to dental health education and to provide consultative or advisory services.
8. To encourage the inclusion of the teaching of basic dental health principles in all health education institutions in this State.



### Composition:

The Governmental and Public Affairs Council shall be composed of:

- a Chairperson appointed by the President, the Vice President, who shall serve as liaison to the Board of Trustees, without the right to vote
- a member from each component society, who shall be designated by the component society
- a member dentist who is in their first ten (10) years of practice designated by the New Dentists Committee and
- one (1) member elected by and from the Executive Committee of the New Jersey Dental Political Action Committee.
- The Chair cannot serve more than five (5) consecutive one (1) year terms.

### Time Commitment:

The council meets approximately four - six times per year via Zoom. The duration of the meeting is 1 - 1.5 hours. There is one joint meeting a year with the COGPA and NJDPAC, which is in person in June. All members are expected to attend the joint meeting.

### Participation Expectations:

**Terms:** The term of office of members of councils shall be one (1) year.

**Attendance:** The tenure of office of a member of a council can be terminated by the Board of Trustees in accordance with Article IV if the member has been absent from three consecutive regularly called meetings of the council.

**Engagement:** As members of this council, you play a critical role in advancing oral health and protecting the interests of the dental profession in New Jersey. Through strategic public and media relations, grassroots advocacy, coalition building, and governmental engagement, we work to influence legislation, support beneficial policies, and foster public awareness on issues vital to dentistry and public oral health. By monitoring state legislative activities and collaborating with the ADA and other agencies, we advocate for laws and regulations that benefit dental professionals, enhance public health, and promote dental health education. Your expertise and commitment are essential to our mission of improving oral health for all and strengthening the dental profession's impact.

**Conduct:** The Association is committed to the principle that all individuals should be treated with dignity and respect. The Association strongly disapproves of any action or conduct by members or employees which constitutes harassment of an individual on



account of race, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, national origin or any other characteristic protected by law.

Resources:

**Chair:** Dr. Amit Vora

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**Staff Liaison:** Orville Morales

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**General Inquires:**

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