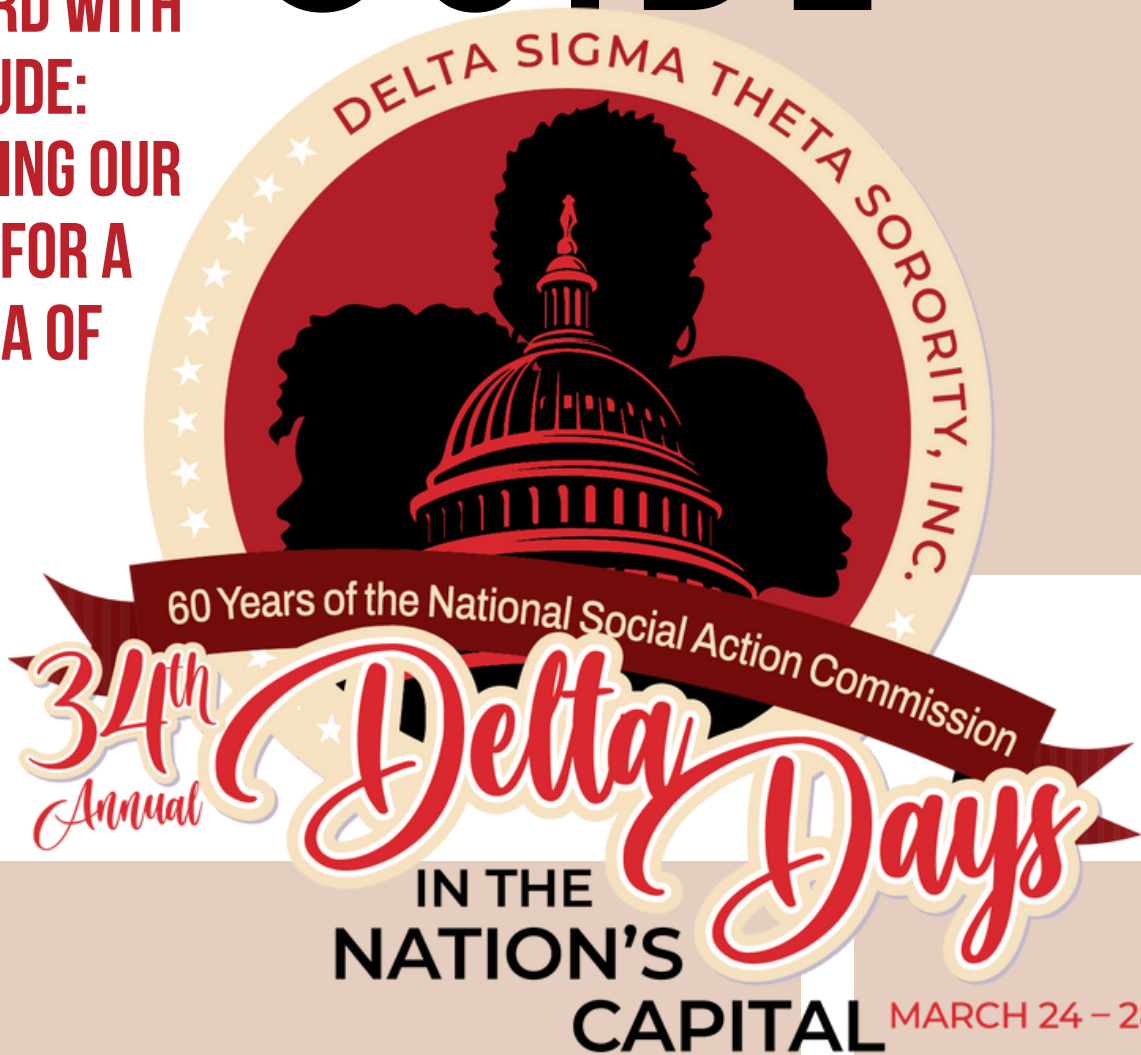


ADVOCACY

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GUIDE

**FORWARD WITH
FORTITUDE:
ELEVATING OUR
POWER FOR A
NEW ERA OF
IMPACT**



STEFANIE BROWN JAMES
THE HONORABLE GLORIA RENO

National Social Action Commission
Co-Chairs

ELSIE
COOKE-HOLMES

National President & Chair of
the National Board of Directors

DEANDREA NEWSOME
DEBORAH C. WILDER

Delta Days in the Nation's
Capital Co-Chair and Advisor

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MESSAGE FROM OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT AND CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dear Sorors,

This year, we will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the National Social Action Commission, but not of our sorority's commitment to social action. Since the very beginnings of our sisterhood, we have been steeped in the cause of positive social change, using our influence to challenge and change the policies and institutions that sought to oppress us.

While our roots in social action were planted long before the commission was convened in 1963, we celebrate all that the Social Action Commission has done over the past 60 years to prepare our chapters and sorors to effectively engage in the often difficult work of advocacy. The commission has kept us informed about important policy issues; designed and led our advocacy campaigns and inspired us to meaningful action.

So, as we come together for the 34th Annual Delta Days in the Nation's Capital policy conference, we proudly look back at our stellar history of social action. We honor the hundreds of sorors who have served as members of the Social Action Commission. We lift the memories of our founders and the trailblazing Deltas who have inspired and shaped our commitment to social justice, from Mary McLeod Bethune to Dr. Dorothy Irene Height, Daisy Bates to Fannie Lou Hamer, Patricia Roberts Harris to Shirley Chisholm and Barbara Jordan.

While we celebrate our glorious past, we will use our time together to find solutions for present-day challenges with the ultimate goal of creating a brighter future. Our theme "Forward with Fortitude: Elevating Our Power for a New Era of Impact" reflects our steadfast commitment to building upon our past successes. To that end, the commission has planned a powerful agenda of plenaries and workshops to educate, empower and edify sorors and fortify them for the work that lies ahead in their communities. The Social Action Commission has also created this useful Advocacy Guide to help you effectively communicate with the lawmakers who serve us. Please use it to help us amplify our positions on vital policy issues.

Sorors, thank you for all you do to execute our sorority's vision for positive social change. May we continue to build on the foundation of social action that was built for us by our Founders. May we continue to go...

Forward with Fortitude,
Elsie Cooke-Holmes
National President
Chair, National Board of Directors

Elsie Cooke-Holmes

***A Note from Our National Social Action Commission
Co-Chairs
Soror Gloria Reno and
Soror Stefanie Brown James***



Greetings Sorors,

Welcome to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated's 34th Annual Delta Days in the Nation's Capital (DDNC) – the Sorority's signature in-person and virtual conference used to educate, advocate, and strategize on legislative priorities that are impacting the communities where we live and serve.

We are excited to be back in the nation's capital in full force as we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Delta's National Social Action Commission (SAC or Commission)! The SAC was established to provide information and direction to the membership on matters of civil rights and social justice. Informed by the work of the National Social Action Commission, the sorority has become an integral part of our movements to secure equity in the political, educational, and economic rights for marginalized communities; as well as unrelentingly focused on voting rights, voter registration, education and engagement in every state.

As we enter our 34th Annual Delta Days in the Nation's Capital, we encourage all members and chapters to take the information they receive at DDNC to develop their local and state advocacy strategies on the issues most important in their communities and partner with like-minded affiliates and local organizations to amplify Delta's voice on issues that will create real systemic change!

In the motivating words of our 14th National President, the Honorable Frankie Muse Freeman, "Sorors, we have much work to do." So let's heed the charge of our current National President, Elsie Cooke Holmes, to "Move Forward with Fortitude" and as we do the vital work of our beloved sorority because Delta is Social Action!

**Gloria Clark Reno
Co-Chair, National Social Action Commission**

**Stefanie Brown James
Co-Chair, National Social Action Commission**

***Greetings from
Our DDNC Co-Chairs
Soror Deandrea N. Newsome and
Soror Deborah C. Wilder***



Greetings Sorors,

Welcome to the 34th Annual Delta Days in the Nation’s Capital! We are excited to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the National Social Action Commission with you. Since the global pandemic we have not been able to gather in this way for two years. Welcome back! Moving forward with the spirit of our Founders, we have prepared for over 1200 Sorors to join us on the Hill this year. We have also included a few new elements to the legislative conference. In the schedule you will find a 60th Anniversary Celebration, enhancements to our Social Action trainings, and federal agency briefings from key appointees of the Biden-Harris administration. Each plenary has been intentionally crafted to address social, political, and policy issues of national importance. We look forward to your engagement. Social Action is in our DNA and we could not have the impact we have without you.

Please review this Advocacy Guide as it provides the necessary information you need to advocate for our policy priorities during and after Delta Days at the Nation’s Capital. With so many options to get engaged, we are asking for all hands on deck!

We are very humbled to Chair this year’s Delta Day’s in the Nation’s Capital and look forward to advocating alongside you to Elevate Our Power For a New Era of Impact!

**Deandrea N. Newsome
Co-Chair, Delta Days in the Nation's Capital**

**Deborah C. Wilder
Co-Chair, Delta Days in the Nation's Capital**



“

**YOU DON'T MAKE PROGRESS
BY SITTING ON THE
SIDELINES, WHIMPERING AND
COMPLAINING... YOU MAKE
PROGRESS BY
IMPLEMENTING IDEAS.**

**~THE HONORABLE SHIRLEY CHISHOLM
FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN ELECTED TO
CONGRESS & FIRST TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT ON BEHALF
OF A MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY
MEMBER OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.**

HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL SOCIAL ACTION COMMISSION

From 1913 until the early 1960s, Delta's social action footprint is found in a desire to make a difference and create change for the African American community.

When the ninth national convention adjourned in December 1927, Delta established its first political action committee, the National Vigilance Committee. The Committee openly admonished the federal government for its treatment of black people, pressed the government to legislate anti-lynching and anti-poll tax laws, and made recommendations to Congress regarding judicial appointments. The Vigilance Committee ended in 1948.

In October 1933, a coalition of organizations joined together to form the Joint Committee on National Recovery (JCNR) to monitor hearings on the federal labor codes (codes that regulated minimum wages and the length of the workweek in various industries), write briefs and letters, and participate in hearings. This Coalition disbanded a few years later.

A partnership of Greek-lettered organizations, ACHR, came together in 1948 to play an active role in promoting civil rights legislation in the areas of education, transportation, employment, public accommodations, housing and the armed services. The ACHR was officially dissolved in 1963.

Between 1948-1962, Delta's socio-political concerns were expressed and carried out through the efforts of the ACHR and various organizational affiliations. By 1962, Delta did not have an internal department or committee to address the current civil rights issues.

Delta's Executive Board, in the administration of 12th National President Jeanne L. Noble, voted to end its affiliation with the ACHR and authorize the Publications and Public Relations Committee to form a Public Affairs Subcommittee, which would develop a program of Social Action and Education.

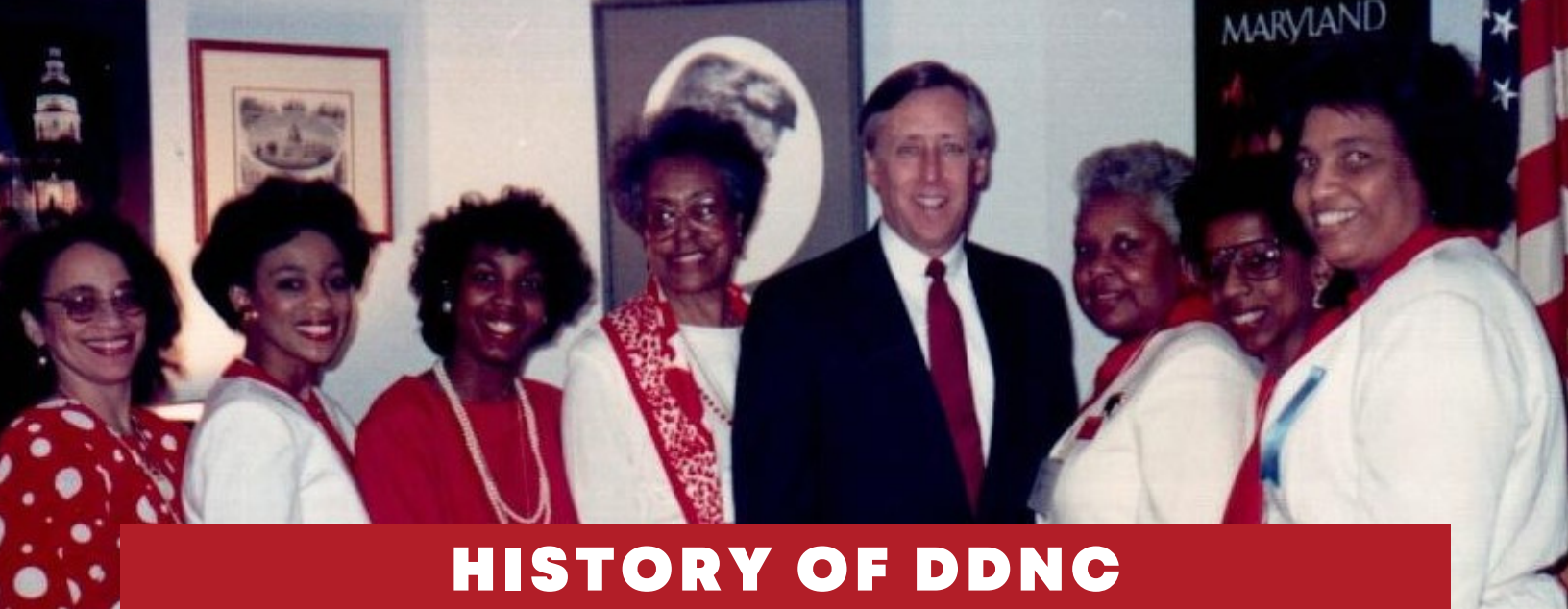
HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL SOCIAL ACTION COMMISSION CONTINUED

At the sorority's 27th National Convention in August 1963, commemorated as the Golden Anniversary Convention, four college students shared their stories during the Youth in Action luncheon. The young Deltas were given a platform to voice their opinions and share their concerns about what they had experienced on the front lines of direct -action protest in the South. They vividly described the grave circumstances in the South – their fears, and their willingness to persevere in the face of overt opposition.

At the end of the National Convention, Delta's Social Action and Education program had been revised to establish the new, groundbreaking Social Action Commission. The resolution establishing the Social Action Commission is considered one of the most significant events of the 1963 National Convention, and set the tone for the new administration, under the 13th National President Geraldine P. Woods' leadership.

The first Commission was co-chaired by Sorors Charlotte R. Lewis and Inez W. Richardson. The Commission first met in November 1963 to formulate an organizational structure, a program statement and implementation techniques to fulfill the purpose outlined in the Resolution of “providing information and direction to the membership on current civil rights issues”. They established the objective “to stimulate social action and education of chapters on current issues”.





HISTORY OF DDNC

As submitted by Soror Deborah Wilder, DDNC Co-Chair

In 1984, the Deltas in Louisiana (Southwest Region) held “Delta Red and White Day at the Legislature” - believed to be the first such event for members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Soon thereafter, Deltas in California (Farwest Region) led by the Sacramento Alumnae Chapter held “Delta Days at the State Capitol” in March 1986.

In keeping with the changing times and needs, in 1989 the Eastern Region under the directorship of Gwendolyn E. Boyd began planning and implementing an annual legislative conference to expand its influence with members of Congress regarding public law and policy. The idea for the expansion of a Delta advocacy day to Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. was the brainchild of our Soror Althea T.L. Simmons, then head of the NAACP Washington office and the organization’s chief lobbyist. Planning and strategy sessions took place in the home of Soror Anita Moore-Hackney of Montgomery County, Maryland. In April 1990 the first DDNC was convened by the Eastern Region. A little over 100 Sorors came to Washington, D.C. from across the country and met in hearing rooms on Capitol Hill. They were welcomed by members of the United States Congress, including members of the Congressional Black Caucus. The following year, the second such event was hosted by the Eastern Region. Thereafter, the National Social Action Commission assumed the responsibility for the conduct of DDNC.

The conference was “designed to increase members’ involvement in the national public policymaking process” while maximizing the potential advocacy power and influence of the (now) more than 300,000 women of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

DELTA'S STATEMENT ON NON-PARTISAN ACTIVITY

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated is a 501(c) (7) non-partisan organization and does not endorse candidates or political parties.

As you meet with your elected officials, sorors are reminded of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's standing as a nonpartisan organization and the importance of avoiding partisan, political conversations while representing Delta.

UNDERSTANDING ADVOCACY VS. LOBBYING


Advocacy: "Any behavior or action that recommends, supports, argues, pleads or defends a cause or issue on behalf of others. The purpose of advocacy is to bring about change by raising public awareness, increasing support or influencing policy on a particular issue."

Lobbying: "Any attempt to influence or have an impact on legislation and may include presenting testimony at public hearings before legislative committees, corresponding or meeting with legislators and their staffs and publishing documents that advocate for specific legislative action."

For reference, the chart below contains an example of an advocacy communication that is not lobbying and a communication which would be considered lobbying.

ADVOCACY	LOBBYING
<p>The Juvenile and Delinquency Prevention Act regulates incarceration practices among juveniles, including deinstitutionalizing status offenders. Research shows that incarcerating low-risk offenders is related to higher recidivism rates.</p>	<p>We urge you to support the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act to reduce the incarceration of low-risk offenders and lower recidivism rates.</p>

**Remember: "All lobbying is advocacy, however not all advocacy is lobbying."
Delta can engage in advocacy AND lobbying.**



**"TO ME, IT IS A PROCESS, A
PROCESS THAT STARTS
WITH RAISING
AWARENESS, ENGAGING
INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS
ON THIS ISSUE, AND BEING
COMMITTED TO A
DIFFERENT COURSE OF
ACTION."**

**~THE HONORABLE ALEXIS HERMAN
FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN TO SERVE AS THE
U.S. SECRETARY OF LABOR
MEMBER OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.**

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN ADVOCACY DAY

“ We must combat ill-advised conservative-led state legislation by encouraging every eligible person you know to vote.

*The Honorable Marcia L. Fudge, 21st National President, Former
Member of Congress
U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development*

Delta Days in the Nation's Capital Advocacy Day
Tuesday, March 28, 2023
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM ET

SORORS PARTICIPATING IN PERSON

Sorors are expected to meet outside of the hotel beginning at **7:30AM** to ride to the U.S. Capitol for a group photo. Please be at the Capitol by **8:30AM**. **Wear Red.**

After the picture, sorors will attend meetings on the Hill.

Listen for information about where and when to meet to catch the bus back to the hotel Tuesday afternoon.

SORORS PARTICIPATING VIRTUALLY

Sorors are encouraged to take a selfie and post it to social media and tag **@dstinc1913 #DDNC2023, #ElevatingOurPower #NewEraofImpact #ForwardWithFortitude**

Between the hours of **10:00 AM-5:00 PM ET**, please participate in **DST ACTIVATE** by calling Members of Congress and/or engaging in **Digital Diva Drop** activities.

Should you have any questions please contact your State Social Action Coordinator.



01 DIVA DROP

March 25 - 31, 2023, Sorors are asked to print the enclosed form letter, along with our Federal Legislative Priorities, place them in a RED or WHITE envelope and drop them in the mail to your Members of Congress -- your individual U.S. Representative as well as your U.S. Senators. We strongly encourage Sorors to email or fax copies of these letters as well.

The Federal Legislative Priorities can be found in CVENT.

02 AMPLIFY ONLINE: DIGITAL DIVA DROP-TWITTER STORM

Between the hours of 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM ET, we are asking Sorors to obtain copy for Federal Legislative priori and Sorors are asked to like, share, retweet, or post the content tagging their Member of Congress along with the specific call to action using the hashtags **#DDNC2023 #ElevatingOurImpact #NewEraOfImpact #ForwardWithFortitude**

RED HOT BREAK

Got a sec? Post a selfie in your sizzling Delta red tagging HQ and using **#2023SocialActionSelfie and the hashtags above.**

**Facebook: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Instagram: @dstinc1913
Twitter: @dstinc1913**

03 CALL CONGRESS

Between the hours of 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM ET, call your Representative or Senator and register your support or opposition for the legislative priorities outlined in the Statement of Purpose.

To make placing these calls easier please see the script provided in this guide. To locate your Member of Congress' phone number contact the U.S. Capitol switchboard at (202)224-3121 or visit <https://www.house.gov> or <https://www.senate.gov> and enter your zip code.

BEFORE WE BEGIN: DIVA DROP CAMPAIGN

“

People just want to hear some common sense... and I bring to bear the experience in local government and state government and national government -

***The Honorable Carol Mosley Braun
First Black Woman elected to the U.S. Senate***

Beginning **March 25, 2023**, we are inviting Sorors to **print or email the following form letter along with our statement of purpose and legislative priorities and place them in a RED or WHITE envelope and send them to your Members of Congress -- your individual U.S. Representative as well as your U.S. Senators.**

For information on how to contact your member of congress please visit www.house.gov and www.senate.gov.

In addition to physically and/or electrically mailing your letter, we strongly encourage Sorors to hand deliver or fax copies of the letters as well.

PLEASE NOTE: The Federal Legislative Priorities will be in CVENT. You will receive information on how to use CVENT from National Headquarters.

Suggested Retailer:

- Amazon - Bright Red Standard Letter Envelope
- Amazon- 9x12 - Bright Red Envelope



CALLING ALL SORORS

SAMPLE COVER LETTER FOR

DIVA DROP: HARD COPY OR EMAIL

Date

The Honorable First Name/Last Name
U.S. Senate/U.S. House of Representatives
Address
City, State Zip Code

Dear Senator/Representative/Appropriate Last Name,

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated was founded in 1913 on the campus of Howard University to promote academic excellence; provide support to the underserved; educate and stimulate participation in the establishment of positive public policy.

Today, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated has chartered 1,058 chapters worldwide and has initiated more than 350,000 members since its founding. The Sorority boldly confronts the challenges that face all Americans, including those of African descent, through its Five-Point Programmatic Thrust of economic development, educational development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health, and political awareness and involvement.

The sorority convenes annually for Delta Days in the Nation's Capital. During this event, we meet with our Members of Congress and share our Federal Legislative Priorities.

Enclosed is a copy of our 2023 Federal Legislative Priorities. I look forward to a thoughtful response from you or your legislative staff on these issues and hearing your position on them.

Sincerely,

First Name/Last Name
State of/Chapter
Address
City, State, Zip
Phone Number
Email Address



INSTRUCTIONS FOR AMPLIFYING YOUR ADVOCACY ONLINE IN 3 EASY STEPS

- 1) IDENTIFY THE PREFERRED SOCIAL MEDIUM FOR ENGAGEMENT USING **OUR STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**
- 2) FIND THE @HANDLES FOR THE ELECTED OFFICIAL YOU WOULD LIKE TO TAG IN YOUR POST
- 3) DRAFT SOCIAL COPY FOR THE POST MAKING SURE TO TAG **@DST1913** USING THE **HASHTAGS #DDNC2023 #FORWARDWITHFORTITUDE #ELEVATINGOURIMPACT #NEWERAOFIMPACT**



**Look for the 2023
Digital Diva Drop
material in CVENT.**

CALL CONGRESS: SAMPLE PHONE SCRIPT

**REMEMBER TO CALL YOUR MEMBER OF
CONGRESS
202.224.2121**

HI, MY NAME IS [YOUR NAME],

**I'M A MEMBER OF DELTA SIGMA THETA
SORORITY, INC. AND I LIVE IN
[CITY/TOWN]. MY ZIP CODE IS [ZIP]. I'M
CALLING TO ASK
REPRESENTATIVE/SENATOR [NAME OF
MEMBER OF CONGRESS] TO SUPPORT
[BULLETS LAID OUT IN FEDERAL
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES DOCUMENT].**

**CAN I COUNT ON [MEMBER OF CONGRESS]
TO SUPPORT THESE PRIORITIES?**





"IF WE PROMISE AS PUBLIC OFFICIALS, WE MUST DELIVER. IF WE AS PUBLIC OFFICIALS PROPOSE, WE MUST PRODUCE."

MS. JORDAN

**~THE HONORABLE BARBARA JORDAN
FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN ELECTED TO
CONGRESS FROM THE DEEP SOUTH
MEMBER OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.**

DDNC ADVOCACY DAY CHECKLIST

As you prepare for 2023 DDNC, please do not forget to review your DDNC Advocacy Day Checklist:



**2023 DDNC
Advocacy Day
Guide**



**Computer/Laptop/
Tablet with
STRONG Internet
Connection**



**Ring Light or
other lighting
source**



**RED Business
Attire**
(Sorors are reminded that
though virtual this is still
a business meeting)



**Comfortable
Shoes**



**Delta Scarf or
neck regalia**
(Regional scarfs
are a plus here)



**Red or White
Mailing
Envelopes (3)**



**Printed Copies
of Form Letters**

**WE HOPE THIS INFORMATION IS HELPFUL AND
CREATES A DELIGHTFUL DDNC ADVOCACY DAY
EXPERIENCE.**

DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED

2023 SOCIAL ACTION ISSUE PRIORITIES

The 2023 Social Action Issue Priorities are designed to assist your chapter, state and region as you give your attention to the critical social action work of the Sorority. The Social Action Issue Priorities document will provide specific items to be addressed within the priority issue and suggestions of what Sorors can do to Elevate our Impact.

Voting and Civic Engagement
Economic Justice
Education
Environmental Justice
Health Equity
Reimagining Public Safety
Reproductive Justice

For more information on these issues, please see corresponding document.



WHAT TO DO AFTER DELTA DAYS IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

- Promptly **SEND A THANK YOU LETTER, NOTE OR POSTCARD**
- Follow up in a timely fashion with any requested materials and information.
- If the Member of Congress needs more time to determine their position, set another meeting with the district office within a couple of weeks.
- Identify local partners who can assist the chapter in the advocacy of this issue or issues with the Congressional member.

CONTINUING YOUR ADVOCACY AT HOME

Here's a few things you can do to continue your advocacy at home after DDNC:

- Schedule meetings in the District Office of your Representatives and U.S. Senators
- Get to Know the District Staff
- Sign Up for member Newsletters and Town Hall Notices
- Follow your Congressional Members on Social Media
- Go to the [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) to sign up receive alerts about the legislation in the Federal Legislative Priorities



FOLLOW UP SAMPLE LETTER

**The Honorable (Representative's name)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515**

OR

**The Honorable (Senator's name)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20501**

Dear Senator/Representative _____,

I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to meet with you (or the staff) when I was in Washington, D.C. during our annual Delta Days in the Nation's Capital conference. I am grateful that you made time to talk with me about the issues that are important to the communities Delta serves.

You will recall that we touched on [list the key issues that you discussed, e.g. Health Equity, Reproductive Justices, or other issues].

[You can include some talking points if you wish, drawing on Delta's Issue Priorities.]

[If you promised to follow up with any other information, include it here.]

I look forward to continuing this relationship and to future meetings with both you and your dedicated staff. In the meantime, if I can answer any questions you may have, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Sincerely,
[Your name, title, and organization]**





NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & NATIONAL SOCIAL ACTION COMMISSION LEADERSHIP

NATIONAL PRESIDENT AND CHAIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NATIONAL FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

NATIONAL SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

NATIONAL SECRETARY

NATIONAL TREASURER

NATIONAL SOCIAL ACTION COMMISSION CO-CHAIR

NATIONAL SOCIAL ACTION COMMISSION CO-CHAIR

22ND NATIONAL PRESIDENT, CHAIR EMERITUS

HONORARY CHAIR

DELTA DAYS IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL CO- CHAIR

DELTA DAYS IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL CO- CHAIR

Elsie Cooke-Holmes

Pamela E. Smith

Dee Dee Kong

Joi L. Moore, Ph.D.

Pamela R. Hill

The Honorable Gloria C. Reno

Stefanie Brown James

Reverend Gwendolyn E. Boyd

The Honorable Alexis M. Herman

DeAndrea N. Newsome

Deborah C. Wilder

Adjoa B. Asamoah

The Honorable Leona M. Bridges

Melanie Campbell

Waikinya J. Clanton

Diamond M. Compton

Khyla D. Craine, Esq.

Allora Goode Cyrus

Katrina Pete Dunn

The Honorable Cheryl Gray Evans, Esq.

The Honorable Brenda J. Gilmore

J. Nadine Gracia, M.D.

The Honorable Lisa White Hardwick

Kimberly L. Hayes

Christina Hayes-Bradham

Yolanda Cash Jackson, Esq.

Andrea Bond Johnson

Todjanae S. Jones

Victoria Juste

The Honorable Patricia Lattimore

Dania Y. Lofton, Esq., MPA

Janice L. Mathis, Esq.

Marcella Maxwell, Ed. D.

Ella McNair, JD

Deandrea N. Newsome

Ashleigh Phillips

Tonia Jones Powell, Esq.

Kimberly Y. Robinson, Esq.

The Honorable Lottie H. Shackelford

Niyah K. Perin-Taylor

The Honorable Kimberly Trent

Jeannette Jones-Vazansky, Ph.D.

Kristen Wells-Lewis

Deborah C. Wilder

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