

## **Local League Action Activity – Visit your local legislative delegation**

League Leaders:

We at the State League need our local leagues to help us with our lobbying activity at the State House in Columbia when the new legislative session reconvenes in January, 2012. We need some insight on what our legislators across the state are thinking, what are their legislative priorities, what new legislation might they introduce. We need the local leagues to be our eyes and ears across the state.

We have compiled a few questions that touch on issues of importance to our state that we hope will be considered in the next legislative session. There may be other issues that affect you specific area of the state that you may also wish to address. We would love to hear back from you after your visits. It is especially valuable for us to have a sense of what legislators from various parts of the state think is important and what issues they may be championing. Many of you are also in contact with your legislators throughout the year, and we hope you will contact us with any information you may obtain from these visits. Support and information from our grass roots activists at the local level is key to our success at the state house. We depend on you.

Please email the results our your visits to JoAnne and Carol at the email addresses listed below.

Thank you for all you do.

JoAnne Day, Vice President Issues and Action     ([jvday@yahoo.com](mailto:jvday@yahoo.com))  
Carol Cato, Advocacy Chair                             (ccato@att.net)

PS – When visiting legislators it is great PR for the League to give them a copy of one of our wonderful publications such as the new water study or “Know Your State”. We want to make them aware of the great work we do in civic and public education.

## **Questions for Legislators**

General. What do you think was the most important legislative accomplishment in the 2011 session? What unfinished business was left on the table that is a priority for you to address in 2012?

Tax reform. The Republican caucus has recently created a Tax Reform Study Committee. What are your priorities in terms of updating our tax code, especially in the area of sales tax? What exemptions should we eliminate? Do you support expanding the taxation of personal and household services such as lawn care and pet grooming?

Education finance. Our schools are suffering from a decline in state funding. There are also proposals to reform the way we fund our schools, particularly to meet the needs of our poorer districts. What is your top priority in changing the way we fund our schools and/or the level of funding the state provides?

Higher education. State aid to post-secondary education has dropped dramatically in the past five years, yet our labor force needs higher education, especially in the technical area. What is your highest priority for any additional funds that may be directed to higher education in the next budget?