

A trend in today's national politics is to encourage more veterans to run to be elected to political office. Why are vets not compelled to run for political office? They should! We know that most have an extremely positive view of America and the American system of government. Since the country was founded upon a Constitution and a system of checks and balances, veterans want to see our system working properly.

There are two other main reasons veterans should be interested in running for political office. The first is there are many veterans in the country, who make up a significant large voting bloc in elections. The second reason is veterans are becoming a popular recruiting ground for many political campaigns, due to the current trend in national politics of burgeoning extremism. **Many believe the two major parties have become so polarized politically, that they cannot find common ground on any issues.**

If you ask veterans about what they want in Washington D.C., most will tell you they want transparency in the government and fewer regulations. They also believe that the government is out of touch with the American people. All of the entitlements, the bailouts, the massive spending and the scandals, are destroying the foundation of our great nation.

Many veterans are aware that foreign affairs play a significant role in how a country runs. **Most of our veterans know more about foreign affairs, than many politicians.** This is reason enough to encourage more veterans to run for office.

The best way to learn about foreign affairs is to have had the opportunity to be deployed overseas and get to know how other countries and people feel about issues. And, by looking at the foreign policy initiatives being promoted today by our politicians. We must show that we are willing and able to invest in the future for our veterans, given how much time and money we have already spent on their training and education. It should not be wasted! Veterans, young and old are proud of their service. They would be honored to advocate for the military, the citizens, and the country. And we would be grateful to have them in office.

Veteran candidates will be able to run on the strength of their national security platform. **They also learn leadership skills and diplomacy while serving in the armed forces.**

Financial support is a great way to attract more veterans to run for political office. There are many ways to help get veterans elected. One of the ways we can get vets to run for political office is by building up support from local veteran organizations. These groups can work with a politician on various issues of importance to veterans. In fact, some of them have even established ties to national politicians who advocate on their behalf. If a veteran wants to run for political office, then he or she can have their pick of national, state, or local politicians to work alongside and learn from.

Some groups do much more than just help vet candidates. For instance, the American Alliance for Military Veterans Political Organization actively works to advocate for and advance legislation through congress that helps and assists our veterans. The PAC also does a lot of networking and gets politicians to talking about the importance of veterans.

Currently, there are seventy-four Members in the U.S. House of Representatives who are veterans and seventeen in the Senate. This is only about one in every six members of Congress. This is a sharp decline from just forty years ago, when it was three out of four members with military service. Getting veterans to run for political office is a wonderful idea. Our elected officials need to hear from all different types of vets if they want to improve our country.

More veterans to run for political office should be a priority of every political party in the coming election of 2024. If our elected officials do not prioritize this issue, then we as citizens will suffer because we will not get the representation that we deserve. We urge all veterans who feel passionately about the direction our country is heading to investigate what is available to them. **Local, State or Federal, we all will benefit from military veterans being in office.** The time to get involved is now.