AMERICAN MOTORCYCLIST ASSOCIATION

VOTE

LIKE A MOTORCYCLIST

2016
THE IMPORTANCE OF POLITICAL ACTIVISM

Voting and getting involved politically are important, because the Election Day results form the foundation for laws that can affect motorcycling.

Anti-motorcycling candidates who are elected to office, may:

- Impose mandates that have unintended consequences
- Cut back or eliminate funding for rider safety training
- Initiate legislation to take away opportunities to ride
- Introduce programs detrimental to motorcycling
- Wipe out programs that motorcyclists have spent years working to implement
- Initiate legislation that would unnecessarily infringe on your freedom to enjoy your ride, customize your bike or make personal choices about safety gear

As citizens we should exercise our right to vote and weigh the candidates’ positions on issues important to us. In particular, motorcyclists should take note of where candidates stand on motorcycling issues.

AMA ELECTION TOOLS

The AMA election website, www.americanmotorcyclist.com, offers tools to help motorcyclists educate themselves about their candidates.

Resources include:

- Voter registration.
- Current legislation that affects riders and the AMA position on that legislation.
- The AMA Voter Guide, which provides election information, all federal and gubernatorial candidates, contact information, biographies, and important election-related dates.
- Election information: Voter registration deadlines, polling place locations, Election Day reminder.
- AMA election tools are free and available on our website.

AMA VOTER GUIDE

In 2010, the AMA unveiled the first-ever national voter guide for motorcyclists. The guide is updated before every major election cycle.

The AMA Voter Guide includes access to previous election data and scorecards that provide ratings of federal incumbent candidates.
REGISTER TO VOTE

The best way to get involved and make a difference in the legislative process is to vote. If you are not a registered voter, you may be eligible to register online.

The AMA website can link you to the tools you need to either register online or find the necessary information for registering another way. Go to www.americanmotorcyclist.com.

Please keep in mind that states usually require registration at least 30 days before an election. Missing your state’s deadline for the primaries or the general election means you will not be able to cast your ballot.

STAY INFORMED

Knowledge is power. And the first step toward getting involved in the election process is educating yourself on the issues and the candidates.

The AMA is here to help with both of those tasks. The AMA Voter Guide will provide information about the candidates and their stances on issues that affect motorcyclists and motorcycling.

For information about the issues themselves, click on the “Rights” tab at www.americanmotorcyclist.com. There you will find the latest news on legislation, regulatory changes and policy proposals, as well as the AMA’s official position statements on lane splitting, distracted and inattentive vehicle operation, voluntary helmet use, excessive sound and rider education.

HELP ELECT MOTORCYCLE-FRIENDLY CANDIDATES

There are many things you can do to assist the campaigns of motorcyclist-friendly candidates.

Here are some ways you can get involved on a campaign:

- Word-of-mouth promotion
- Host a candidate meeting
- Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper
- Administrative help
- Make phone calls
- Volunteer on Election Day
- Donate
- Place yard signs
- Distribute fliers
- Door-to-door
- Attend events

When the 2016 AMA Vote Guide is published, you will find it at www.americanmotorcyclist.com.
BECOME AN AMA DEFENDER

AMA Defender membership includes all of the benefits of an AMA Champion, plus it designates a $10 annual contribution to the advocacy efforts of the AMA Government Relations Department.

AMA Defenders receive a copy of the GRD Annual Report, which summarizes the AMA’s activities from the past year, including a breakdown of the top federal and state issues, behind-the-scene numbers, graphs and new online tools.

They also get a detailed analysis of crucial issues, including access to related documents via the AMA Action Alert system.

The best way to become an AMA Defender is to call (800) AMA-JOIN and ask to upgrade your membership. Just $10 dollars, the cost of a couple cups of coffee is a small sum to help guarantee your freedoms as a rider.

DONATE TO AMPAC

The American Motorcyclist Political Action Committee works to maintain relationships with key officials to preserve and establish funding for programs such as motorcycle safety grants.

Every year, elected officials arbitrarily work to close motorized trails on America’s public lands. And every year, there are champions in Washington, D.C., who push back.

AMPAC provides support to members of Congress who battle to preserve responsible off-highway access for millions of Americans.

Recognizing their efforts and working to keep these members of Congress in office is a critical part of AMPAC’s mission.

To donate, go to www.americanmotorcyclist.com/ampac.