



Advocacy Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is advocacy?

The definition of advocacy is the act of speaking on the behalf of or in support of another person, place, or thing.

2. What is an advocacy organization?

An advocacy organization is defined as an organization that campaigns on a particular issue.

3. Why would you join an advocacy organization?

You join an advocacy organization to have your voice heard and to make changes to current policy. By joining an advocacy organization, you are able to share both your positive experiences as well as roadblocks. Through your testimonials and opinions on proposed policy, the advocacy organization is equipped with solutions to help policymakers make informed decisions and craft productive policy.

4. What does advocacy do for you and your business?

Advocacy helps your business because it ensures that your issues and concerns are raised with policymakers.

5. How does NAWBO National advocate on your behalf?

NAWBO National advocates on behalf of women business owners for productive policy that improves the business climate. NAWBO National keeps a pulse on what is going on in the nation's capital through our relationships with instrumental committees as well as U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives. We are your voice in the nation's capital. We hear your concerns, we listen to your solutions, and we provide lawmakers with a better path forward.

6. How can I become an advocate?

Come to our annual [NAWBO Advocacy Day](#)! It is usually held in early June. You can experience what it is like to walk the halls of Congress and ask questions and hear from influential lawmakers that are working on policy on your behalf. Also, get involved year-round! Join our monthly advocacy calls and webinars to hear about what we're working on in Washington, D.C. Also, if you are on Facebook, join the NAWBO National Advocacy Group to gain more information from NAWBO National as well as your peers.

7. Who do I contact if I want to get more involved?

If you have questions about our on-going Advocacy efforts, email Elle Patout at epatout@nawbo.org. If you have questions about our annual Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C., please reach out to Katie Wonnenberg via email at katie@publicprivatestrategies.com.

8. What calls are available to participate on to learn more throughout the year?

There are many avenues to learn about what NAWBO National is doing in the Advocacy space. Members are welcome to join the monthly Advocacy calls. The usually occur (depending on holidays) the 3rd Tuesday of the month. They are posted on the NAWBO Events Page.

You can also join our Facebook group, NAWBO National Advocacy Group for updates and information.



In addition, on NAWBO.org/Advocacy you can find our Monthly Advocacy Updates tab which has links to Word documents that include updates about current legislation and relevant Advocacy information for NAWBO members each month.

9. What is bipartisan?

Bipartisan means it is supported by both major political parties, the Democratic and Republican parties. With the current two party system in the U.S, in order to receive support from NAWBO National, a piece of federal legislation must have bi-partisan support, which means members of both parties serve as sponsors and/or original co-sponsors.

10. Does NAWBO National support legislation?

Yes, NAWBO National does support federal legislation.

11. How does NAWBO decide to support a piece of legislation?

There is a detailed process when NAWBO National considers engaging on an advocacy issue which includes:

- 1) Bipartisanship Test: In order to receive support from NAWBO National, a piece of legislation must have support from both Democrats and Republicans, which means members of both parties serve as sponsors and/or original co-sponsors.
- 2) Coalition Building: We look to be inclusive and build coalitions from within the business community around an issue or idea. The more individuals and organizations speaking positively about a solution, the better. NAWBO is proud to represent an important subset of the small business community (you!) and broker partnerships to ensure our seat at the table of all relevant discussions and debates to make sure your voice is heard.
- 3) Data and Expertise Driven Initiatives: The results of our annual membership survey help drive our annual advocacy agenda.

12. Is NAWBO National a part of any other advocacy organizations?

NAWBO National is proud to be a founding member of the Small Business Roundtable (SBR), which is a coalition of leading small business and entrepreneurship organizations, dedicated to advancing policy, securing access, and promoting inclusion to benefit the businesses at the heart of the American economy. Other SBR members include: the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council; the National Association for the Self-Employed; U.S. Black Chambers, Inc.; the National Small Business Association; National ACE; and United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. We encourage you to check them out and see if they have state or local chapters in your area. Let us know at NAWBO National if we can help make those introductions.

13. Does NAWBO National endorse candidates?

In the past, NAWBO National has endorsed candidates. However, moving forward, NAWBO National believes that an endorsement program is no longer the right avenue to create strong ties with newly elected members.