

# Local PTA Advocacy Chair Role

Described by the Michigan PTA Advocacy Committee

So, you've signed up to be the PTA Advocacy Chair at your school, now what? First of all, thank you! This role is important to local, state and national advocacy efforts on behalf of the children in your school, district, Michigan and the Nation. That may seem like a lot, but the best part of advocacy is that you are never alone. The Advocacy Team is just that and we are here to support you.

- That is why the first thing you should do is make sure you are marked as your school's Advocacy Chair in MemberHub. That way you are quick and easy to find.
- Secondly, save this email for future reference - [childadvocacyvp@michiganpta.org](mailto:childadvocacyvp@michiganpta.org). That is the email for Michigan PTA's Vice President of Children's Advocacy, Jenn Garland (for school years 21/22 to 22/23). Please never hesitate to reach out!
- You can always call Michigan PTA at (734) 975-9500.
- Michiganpta.org is a great place to find advocacy resources as well as reach out to us.
- Join our Michigan PTA Advocacy Facebook group to get up-to-date information.
- Pta.org is National PTA's website and is full of helpful resources on all PTA topics.
- Does your PTA belong to a council? If so, find out who your Advocacy Chair is at the Council level. If you do not have one, make sure you have the information for your Council President.
- **Remember that PTA is NONPARTISAN! We do NOT support political candidates or parties!**
- **We DO take positions on ISSUES and can engage with elected officials and candidates about those at Advocacy Days, forums, with questions, at coffee hours and invite them to meetings.**
- **Please make sure you frequently remind your membership that all PTAs are NONPARTISAN. Make sure you and anyone working with you adheres to this when representing PTA.**
- Now that you have contact information, what should you be doing? First, at PTA meetings you will share relevant Advocacy information with your membership.
  - Report on local level advocacy
  - Report on state level advocacy
  - Report on national level advocacy
- Share how your membership can get involved.
  - Is there a Call to Action? Tell you membership about Voter Voice campaigns. (Reminder: State Voter Voice and National Voter Voice do not share with each other, you must sign up for each separately, or opt-in when you receive a Call to Action.)
  - Michigan PTA VoterVoice - <https://www.votervoice.net/MIPTA/home>
  - National PTA VoterVoice - [www.pta.org/home/advocacy/take-action](http://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/take-action)
  - Do you need your membership to call local officials? Tell them why and give them the necessary contact information.
- Share information about PTA hosted candidate forums or questionnaires. If your PTA council does not do this or you do not belong to a council, reach out to Michigan PTA on how we can help you.
- Reminders:
  - Join us! The Michigan PTA has an Advocacy Day, usually in March. This is a time to learn about important issues related to Michigan children and families.
  - Join us! National PTA has an Advocacy Day in Washington D.C. every year, usually in March, but as part of our 125th anniversary celebration in 2022, it will be in June. If you cannot make that, please look for information on what we advocate for on behalf of Michigan's children and families.
  - There is NO such thing as a dumb question. Never hesitate to reach out! We are excited to work with you on behalf of Michigan's children and families.