WCS Wildlife Advocate Program
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MISSION

WCS saves wildlife and wild places worldwide through science, conservation action, education, and inspiring people to value nature.

VISION

WCS envisions a world where wildlife thrives in healthy lands and seas, valued by societies that embrace and benefit from the diversity and integrity of life on earth.
Wildlife Advocate Program Goal

Advance WCS policy priorities through fostering relationships with key policy makers
How the Program Works

Join

Become part of WCS’s team of informed and engaged citizens who can make a real impact on policies that protect wildlife and our planet. As a participant, we'll ask you to contact your lawmakers and urge them to support specific legislation at key moments.

Learn

WCS will keep you informed about pending legislation at all levels of government from federal to local. We’ll let you know when bills are heading for a vote, or are in danger of being ignored. And we'll educate and prepare you so you are confident and well equipped for this important role.

Engage

You—as a constituent—are your lawmakers’ boss and they want to hear from you. Use that influence; you don’t have to be an expert or a professional lobbyist. We'll ask you to contact your lawmaker at key moments through emails, phone calls, or by attending an in person meeting.

We are here to help support your efforts every step of the way!
What Advocates Can Do

• Take Digital Actions on WCS.org
  • Sign up for take action alerts on wcs.org and share with your friends and family to amplify impact.

• Send Emails/Make Calls
  • WCS will provide background and talking points to compose personalized letters and scripts for calls.

• Post on Social Media
  • WCS will provide instructions and sample posts which you can use to contact your legislators online.
New York City Government

- 51 Council Districts
  - Members serve two consecutive four-year terms
  - Members elected before 2010 may seek additional terms
New York State Government

*State Senate*
- 63 Seats
  - 40 Democrats
  - 23 Republicans
  - 2-year term

*State Assembly*
- 150 Seats
  - 106 Democrat
  - 43 Republican
  - 1 Independent
  - 2-year term
Federal Government

- **House of Representatives**
  - 435 Members divided among the 50 states in proportion to their total population
  - New York has 27 Representatives and 2 Senators

- **Senate**
  - 100 Senators
  - 2 Senators per State
  - Term: 6 Years
Federal Legislative Process

1. House & Senate introduction of bill
2. House & Senate hearings and/or markups
3. House & Senate conference a bill
4. Send a bill to the White House
State Legislative Process

1. Senator has new policy idea
2. Idea is drafted into a bill
3. Bill undergoes committee process
4. Senate and Assembly pass bill
5. Bill is signed by governor
City Legislative Process

1. Bill Introduction
2. Public Hearings
3. Mayoral Decision
4. Voting
5. Bill Becomes Law
## Budget Approval Process

### New York City
1. Preliminary Budget (January)
2. Council Analysis & Hearings (March - April)
3. Formal Response
4. Executive Budget & Hearings (April)
5. Adopted Budget (May-June)

### New York State
1. Preliminary Budget (January)
2. Council Analysis & Hearings (March - April)
3. Formal Response
4. Executive Budget & Hearings (April)
5. Adopted Budget (May-June)

### Federal
1. The President submits a budget request to Congress (Feb. of each year)
2. House and Senate modify the budget
3. Align differences between the house and senate budget. Both the house and senate vote to approve the same budget

### Timeline for Agency Budget Prep
1. Agency Budget Prep (June-Sept/Oct)
2. Budget Division Review (Sept/Oct - December)
3. Governor’s Decision (November-January)
4. Legislative Action (January-March)
Wildlife Conservation Society Priorities

New York City

NYC Budget Actions
- Cultural Institution Funding
- BZ and NYA receive funding along with 32 other NYC Cultural Institutions through the NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs

NYC Conservation Actions
- Single-Use Plastics Bills
- Coastal Resiliency

New York State

NYS Budget Actions
- Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)
  - Zoos, Botanical Gardens and Aquariums (ZBGA)
  - Ocean and Great Lakes Program

NYS Conservation Actions
- Single-Use Plastics Bills
- Wildlife Trade

Federal

Appropriations
- USAID Biodiversity
- USAID/State: Combating Wildlife Trafficking
- Global Environment Facility
- USFWS Multinational Species and International Programs

Conservation Bills
- Northern Triangle Act
- Save Vanishing Species Semipostal Stamp Reauth
- Salamander Act
- Wild Bird Conservation Act
- Critically Endangered Animals Conservation Fund
  - RAWR Act
  - SAVES Act
Join Us!

Interested in becoming an advocate? Learn more [here](#).