



Legislative Youth Advisory Council 2018 Meeting Overviews

January 2018 - Special Elections and Amendments to Bylaws

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The Council convened on January 5, 2018 to discuss tentative plans for the 2017-2018 session of the Indiana General Assembly, make amendments to the Council’s bylaws, and elect new Officers in a Special Officer Election.

Council Chair Cole Ferguson began by giving a brief report of meeting plans. The Council plans to consider bills for endorsement, a new council mission, and methods for increased visibility. The resignation of Katherine Carlton was also announced. Then, the meeting moved towards the topic of amendments to the Council bylaws.

An amendment to quorum rules established a majority of over 50% as a threshold for council quorum. An amendment to council chairs established three new officer positions, with the Council Chair remaining as the highest officer position. A Special Officer Election was held to elect Council members to all four officer positions, and results were as follows.

Council Chair: *Cole Ferguson (incumbent)*

Communications Chair: *Kelby Stallings*

Political Affairs Chair: *Megan Stoner*

Outreach Chair: *Abby Thomas*

February 2018 - Review of Council Advocacy Work

“The Council convened on February 2nd, 2018 with progress updates from the Council Chair and the Policy Chair.”

The Council convened on February 2nd, 2018 with notable officer reports from Council Chair Cole Ferguson and Policy Chair Megan Stoner. Both Ferguson and Stoner, who had reached out to authors of the bills that the Council had sponsored, received no response from a plurality of the authors’ legislative assistants. Future plans



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for public testimony at the Indiana State House and policy proposals are being considered for the 2018-2019 legislative session of the Indiana General Assembly.

Tentative plans for contact with the State of Washington's Youth Legislative Advisory Council as well as recruit efforts in the Indianapolis area were discussed.

April 2018 - Indiana General Assembly Session Developments

"The Council convened on April 23rd, 2018 to address the General Assembly's Emergency Legislative Session and to begin tentative plans on the 2018 Annual Report."

The Council convened on April 23rd, 2018 to address the Indiana General Assembly's Emergency Legislative Session, begin tentative plans on the Annual Report for the 2018 year, and announce the officer election for the 2018 year, the first since bylaws were amended and four leadership chairs were established.

The Emergency Legislative Session is set for May 14th, 2018 and is an extension of the 2017-2018 session of the Indiana General Assembly. The emergency session will not permit for any amendments or public hearings on presented bills. Bill 1230, regarding school safety and cyber-bullying, was endorsed by the Council.

The Council discussed plans for developing and contacting a network of youth across the state of Indiana with notable leadership positions. Some groups the Council is considering reaching out include the Indiana Youth Leadership Summit, the Senate and House Page programs, Girls and Boys State, student governments of universities, and high school leadership groups.

The Council discussed a change to the format of the Annual Report. The Council will now include 3 or 4 different overall topics for discussion, with specific policy suggestions that would benefit Indiana youth.

The resignation of Tyler Reifsteck was announced. The officer election for the 2018 year was announced, the first since bylaws were amended and four leadership chairs were established at the January 2018 meeting. Incumbent Cole Ferguson announced that he would not seek re-election to the Council Chair.



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July 2018 - Officer Elections and Preparing for the Annual Report

“The Council convened on July 20, 2018 to hold annual officer elections and begin discussion on the Annual Report.”

The Council convened on July 20, 2018 to hold annual officer elections and begin discussion on the Annual Report. Annual Officer Elections were then held to elect Council members to all four officer positions, and results were as follows.

Council Chair: *Aldo Medina*

Communications Chair: *Kelby Stallings (incumbent)*

Political Affairs: *Megan Stoner (incumbent)*

Outreach Chair: *Christian Means*

Afterwards, the meeting agenda moved towards the Annual Report, where structure was discussed and decided. The 2018 Annual Report will focus on four topics: civics, education, health, and school safety.

Council Member Erin Alberda sat on her lasting meeting of the Council. She was originally appointed in July 2016 by Speaker of the Indiana House Brian Bosma, and served the entirety of her two-year term.

September 2018 - Preparations for Policy Recommendations in 2019

“The Council convened on September 10th, 2018 to discuss policy recommendations for the 2019 year”.

The Council convened on September 10th, 2018 to discuss policy recommendations for the 2019 year. Council members are expected to contribute to at least one Recommendation included in the 2018 Annual Report, with the topics including civics, education, health, and school safety. Assignments were made for Council members not present at the meeting; for habitually truant members, removal for cause was discussed.

October 2018

The Council will convene on Friday, October 26th, 2018 at the offices of the Indiana Bar Foundation in Indianapolis, Indiana.