Improving Food Policy Through Effective Advocacy

LOCAL AND STATE

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1) Advocacy
2) Local Case Study – El Paso
3) State Level Efforts
AHA’s role – What we do

"To be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives."

American Heart Association Mission Statement
Increasing Population Impact

- Counseling and Education
- Clinical Interventions
- Long-Lasting Protective Interventions
- Changing the Context to Make Individuals' Default Decisions Healthy
- Socioeconomic Factors

Increasing Individual Effort Needed
What is Advocacy and how do we do it?
LOBBYIST

What my friends think I do.
What my parents think I do.
What the other side says I do.
What society thinks I do.
What I think I do.
What I actually do.
Food Access Policy

3-Legged Stool

1) Proximity (food deserts)
2) Affordability (e.g., SNAP)
3) Educational/Cultural
1) **Problems**
   - Low income
   - Poor diet
   - Too few supermarkets
   - Lack of solutions, organization, know-how

2) **Resources**
   - Close-knit, proactive community
   - Responsive, caring Commissioners Court
   - Multisector interest and buy-in
   - C
1) Problems
   • Low income
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2) Resources
   • Close-knit, proactive community
   • Responsive, caring Commissioners Court
   • Multisector interest and buy-in
   • A good, realistic idea

And most importantly......
¡The Juarez Hot Dog!
David Sout
El Paso County Commissioner
Precinct 2
Monday, December 10, El Paso County Creates first ever county-level HFFI
Key Takeaways:

• Importance of Persistence.

• Focus – pick an idea. Specific, realistic.

• Direct Lobbying – it’s not so bad.

• Actually care.
Sometimes it’s important to be too dumb to know any better.
86th Texas Legislative Session

- January 8, - May 27, 2019 (140 days)
- 75 days left
- 150 House Members (83 Republicans, 67 Democrats)
- 31 Senators (19 Republicans, 12 Democrats)
- New Speaker
- Halfway through and we’ve barely gotten started.
Legislative Process
Food Access Legislation

SNAP Simplification
- SB 1445 (Perry)/ HB3524 (Klick), HB 3931 (Meza)

SNAP Eligibility Reduction
HB 251 (Farrar)

SNAP Study/FINI Grant
- HB 3541 (Rose) / SB 1834 (Alvarado)

Healthy Food Financing Initiative
- HB 1252 (E. Rodriguez)

Grocery Store Incentive
- HB 605 (Thierry)
Food Access Legislation

SNAP Photo ID

HB 1250 (Phelan) / SB 671 (Creighton)
How to help / get involved

Let’s work together!

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Questions