

Help Us Help Lithuania!

Lithuania has flourished since declaring independence from the Soviet Union in 1990, and we need to make sure it continues to thrive on the world stage! During Soviet occupation, JAV Lietuviu Bendruomene (JAVLB - Lithuanian American Community) was critically, continuously active in asking the U.S. government to support Lithuania's independence. Now, with Putin's invasion of Ukraine, and growing isolationist ideologies, Lithuania's freedom faces its greatest threat since WWII. We, JAV Lietuviu Bendruomene, need to raise our voices again, to protect Lithuania's hard-won freedom!

Congress and the White House are making decisions that impact Lithuania and the broader region, especially Ukraine's fight against Putin. Our elected officials need to hear from you! They are in their jobs to serve, and need to know what you want them to do.

Join VALIA: Voices of American Lithuanians in Action!

VALIA is the advocacy initiative of JAVLB Public Affairs Council

What you get if you join VALIA:

- A clear conscience: you will know you spoke up for Lithuania's freedom, and educated people about Lithuania
- Camaraderie: you will meet leaders in your community, as well as across the U.S.
- A broader horizon: opportunities to develop relationships with your elected officials
- A smarter horizon: be the first to get important news, and get free training sessions from professionals on a wide range of best practices: how to contact your legislators, run effective meetings, grow your network, handle crisis communications and media relations
- Invitations to represent Lithuania in Washington, DC at official advocacy events

What you are asked to do as a member of VALIA:

- Ideally, meet with your elected officials either virtually or live in office, a half hour to one hour meeting, at least once a year. Our team will help set up the meetings for you and prep you in advance. You would be asked to take notes and provide feedback.
- Make calls, send emails, and/or write letters to elected officials. We will provide templates that you can send as is or edit to include your story: how policies have affected Lithuania and your family.
- Recruit others who might join in meetings and other communication campaigns.
- Meet with our VALIA leadership once a quarter to exchange information and to coordinate our advocacy efforts.
- Optional: Invite your elected officials to your events (e.g. Independence day celebrations, festivals, and other events)
- Optional: attend no cost training sessions and webinars, Washington DC events

You can and do make a difference. [Over 94%](#) of staff for elected officials say that "in-person visits from constituents" have "some" or "a lot" of influence on an undecided lawmaker.

To join VALIA, please send an email to: kbard@kristabard.com noting your mailing address, and phone number.