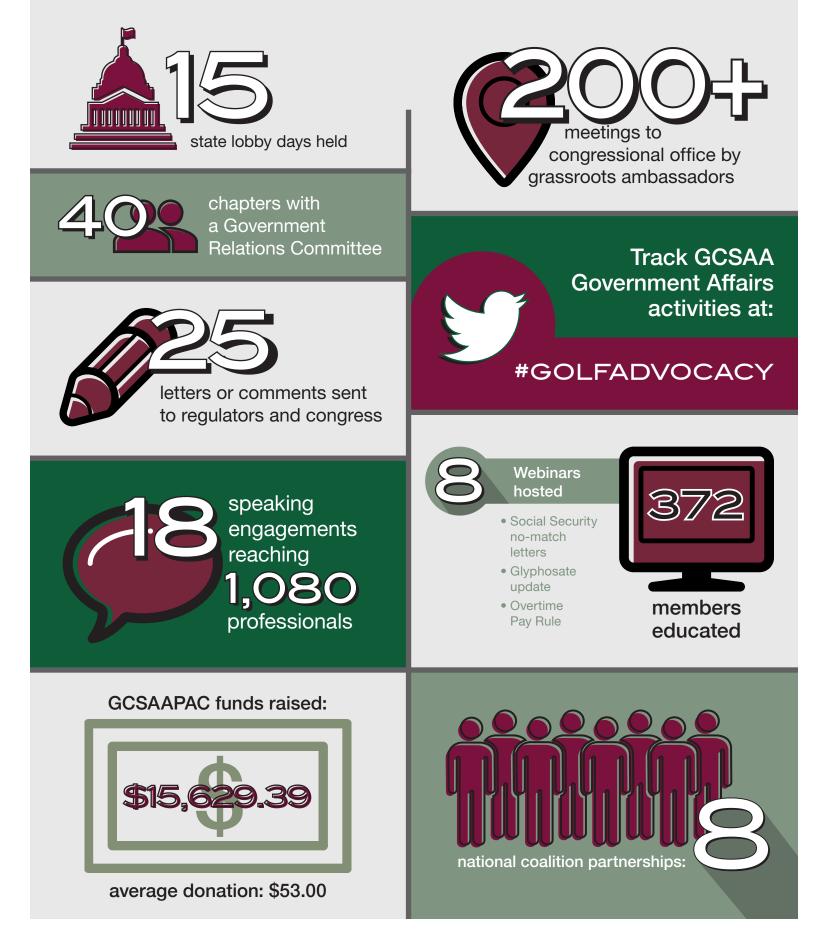


## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS 2019 SNAPSHOT





GCSAA secured several policy accomplishments in 2019 to advance golf course management.

- Clean Water, Clear Rules. GCSAA continued to lead golf's opposition to the WOTUS rule. Our advocacy helped push the Trump Administration to propose a replacement rule that more clearly defines surface waters under federal government jurisdiction.
- Briefing the Office of Management and Budget, EPA Administrator and congressional leaders on golf's role as an environmental steward of water. GCSAA talked to decision-makers to make sure they know superintendents are committed environmental stewards who protect water quality by applying physical, agronomic and environmental Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- GCSAA worked with the turfgrass industry to secure \$3 million for turfgrass research funding within USDA-ARS which was included in the final federal appropriations bill and signed into law Dec. 20. This helps fund turf and sod research projects which identify new turfgrass varieties to reduce water use and help mitigate soil erosion.
- Defeating anti-pesticide legislation at the local and state level. Through coalition advocacy, GCSAA's Grassroots Ambassadors helped defeat legislation in CT; MD; MN; NH; NY; OR; VA; WI; Falmouth, ME; Long Beach, CA; Los Angeles, CA; Ventura County, CA; and York, ME.
- The Virginia GCSA and GCSAA were recognized by the Governor in the Chesapeake Bay watershed cleanup Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan report.

- GCSAA focused on engaging more with the 10 EPA regional offices throughout the country to determine where there may be an alignment of mutual priorities to develop environmental solutions. In October, GCSAA hosted a site visit for the EPA Region 7 Administrator and his team at Shoal Creek Golf Course in Kansas City. In November, EPA Region 3 reached out to GCSAA to develop a Smart Sectors program focused on golf to launch in 2020.
- Protecting and expanding the H-2B Visa Program. GCSAA met with decision-makers in Congress and at the Department of Homeland Security to argue for greater visas and more certainty with the program. Our efforts led to a bipartisan compromise in Congress that potentially doubled the number of visas available and opened the possibility to more.
- GCSAA was invited to serve on the U.S. EPA Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee which is a federal advisory committee to U.S. EPA Office of Pesticide Programs. The golf industry for the first time will serve on this committee and discuss pesticide regulatory, policy, and program implementation issues.
- GCSAA prepared a glyphosate toolkit, available on GCSAA.org, to help members keep up to date on glyphosate court cases in the country and provided talking points for superintendents to use when engaging with the public on pesticide use. A glyphosate webinar was held in July.