**GET POLITICAL WITH ELEPHANT ISSUES**

Find out if it’s legal to buy and sell ivory in your state, and if it is, start a movement to outlaw that. Currently it’s not legal in California, New Jersey, New York, and Washington State. In January, 2017, it will be illegal in Hawaii too. Join with like-minded elephant lovers where you live to introduce legislation to outlaw ivory sales. Legislation has been introduced in the following states, and could use your help to push it through: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, D.C., Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

In Europe, the French Environment Minister Ségolène Royal has announced her intention to implement a ban on ivory trade in all French territories and stated her support for similar measures at an EU level. Find out what’s happening with ivory sales in your country and make a move to stop all of it.

If you frequent zoos or circuses, find out who the key echelon of staff members are and write to them, asking that they retire the elephants from performing and allow them to live in an elephant sanctuary with other elephants.

If you visit an elephant tourism camp, ensure that the elephants are not ridden, and if they are, write a letter to or call the head of the establishment protesting this practice. Many elephants at these “eco-tourism” camps are forced to carry tourists on their backs in wooden or metal box/chairs called “howdahs.” Often the howdahs are over-weighted with four or more people riding in one howdah. Over 150 kilograms (330 pounds) of weight on an elephant’s back puts enormous stress on the elephant and creates painful open sores and abscesses on the elephant’s skin. Many of these elephants suffer or die from dehydration, lack of adequate food, and exhaustion when being overworked in the tourist trade. Advocate for humane elephant eco-tourism where elephants are treated with respect and dignity – and not overworked for tourist entertainment.