

Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) Conference 2027

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Concurrent Presentations, Posters, and Ignite Talks
Conference Dates: April 12 - 14, 2027
Location: Bethesda, MD
Proposal Deadline: Tuesday, January 5, 2027
Theme: **Changing Landscapes: Extension's Role in a Changing World**

About the Conference

The Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) invites proposals for the 2027 PILD Conference. This annual event brings together Extension professionals, elected officials, and volunteers to:

- Communicate the value of Extension
- Strengthen understanding of federal partnerships
- Build confidence in engaging with elected leaders

PILD is open to all Extension professionals from 1862, 1890, and 1994 land-grant institutions. **We welcome proposals across all disciplines that align with the conference theme and mission.**

Mission & Objectives

While we know that all extension professionals are doing impactful work in their communities worthy of a conference presentation, the PILD conference has a specific mission and objectives. **We are specifically looking for posters and sessions that match the objectives of this conference.**

Mission: Enhance education and advocacy skills to positively affect federal, state, and local resources available for Cooperative Extension.
Objectives:

- Broaden understanding of how public policy impacts Extension and its clientele.
- Empower Extension professionals and volunteers to lead on public issues.
- Build confidence in engaging with elected officials at all levels.
- Strengthen support for Extension through advocacy and storytelling.
- Share replicable models of leadership, funding, and communication.

Presentation Types

Concurrent Sessions:

- 45-minute workshop
- All sessions include Q&A and must be engaging and participatory

Posters:

- Displayed throughout the conference

- Staffed poster session time will be assigned
- Dimensions and setup instructions provided upon acceptance

Ignite Talks:

- 10-minute timed presentation with up to 25 auto-advancing slides
- 2 minutes for Q&A
- Focus on a single impactful idea, event, or tool

Proposal Requirements

- Title (max 160 characters)
- Session Format
- Brief Abstract (max 300 characters)
- Description of Proposal (max 700 characters)
- Learning Objectives (max 700 characters)
- Relevance to current extension professionals (max 500 characters)
- Relevance to the 2027 theme and objectives of the PILD conference (max 500 characters)
- Presenter(s) Biography (max 2400 characters total)

Evaluation Criteria

All proposals will undergo blind peer review.

Criteria	Weight
Relevance to PILD mission and all land-grant institutions	20%
Innovative approach to funding, partnerships, advocacy, or leadership	20%
Demonstrated impact and communication to decision-makers	20%
Replicability of tools, models, or strategies	20%
Alignment with 2027 theme	10%
Application to a wide variety of audiences (including volunteers)	10%

Submission Guidelines

- Submit proposals via: go.osu.edu/PILD2027
- Deadline: Tuesday, January 5, 2027
- Presenters must be current members of a JCEP professional organization
- Presenters are responsible for their own registration and travel costs

Contact & Additional Information

- Visit the PILD Conference Website: https://www.jcep.org/pild
- Questions? Email: tbrent@vt.edu OR bennett.709@osu.edu or ldavis@uada.edu