

Getting Involved: Government Advocacy

There are a number of opportunities for people to stay informed about Board policies and actions and to make their voices heard. Here are some of them:

- **Visit the Board's Web site:** A good place to learn about the Board's activities is the Board's Web site at www.barbercosmo.ca.gov. There are a number of fact sheets, bulletins and other materials relating to Board rules and policies. There is also a link to Board meetings past and future, complete with minutes, background materials and Webcast recordings. You can also visit the Board's Facebook page and follow the Board on Twitter.
- **Sign up for the Interested Parties List:** The list is updated regularly and used to notify the public about pending regulatory actions, upcoming Board meetings, policy changes and other matters regarding the industry. Sign up for the email list at https://www.dca.ca.gov/webapps/barber/subscribe_email.php
- **Attend Board meetings:** Board meetings are typically held once per quarter, with the venue alternating between Northern California and Southern California. The Board urges the public to attend these meetings when possible. There is an opportunity for public comment before every Board vote, and also a period for public comment at the beginning and end of each open session for matters that are not on the meeting agenda. This is where members of the public can bring up matters that are important to them, or that they would like to see addressed by the Board. Keep in mind that while the Board will listen to your concerns during the public comment periods, it is legally prohibited from discussing issues or taking action if the matter is not listed on the agenda. Board meeting listings can be found at http://www.barbercosmo.ca.gov/about_us/meetings/index.shtml
- **Monitor Legislative Actions:** It's important to remember that while the Board is responsible for making of many of the decisions affecting the beauty industry, those decisions have to conform to the statutes passed by the Legislature. In fact, a number of changes can only be made through legislative action. The Legislative process offers many opportunities for the public to be heard. You can also visit <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/> for information on bills before the Legislature.