ABA Strategic Priorities | Progress Update

November 2026 Member Update • 2026–2028 Strategic Plan

ABA continues to advance all six strategic priorities. Four areas are on track (green), two are progressing with continued attention needed (yellow), and none are materially off track. Status reflects near-term implementation progress, not completion of the full 2026–2028 outcomes.

Governance & Leadership

GREEN — On track	**Movement since October:** Strong progress continues as leadership succession, committee engagement, and governance updates move forward.

Progress: The Board approved the 2027–2028 nominee slate and the 2027 operating budget, while work continues on Bylaws and policy updates, committee recruitment, and stronger connections among Board, committees, and staff.

What members can expect next: Members will see expanded opportunities to volunteer for ABA committees during 4th Quarter 2026 followed by the 2027 leadership slate and governance updates move into the member-review process 1st Quarter 2027.

Data, Quality & Verification

YELLOW — Continued attention	**Movement since October:** Progress continues, with important implementation work still ahead.

Progress: ABA approved the next direction for the Find a Burn Center directory to more clearly distinguish ABA-verified centers while preserving access to burn-care information. Work also continues on BCQP, verification modernization, workforce report intelligence, and benchmarking scheduled for release in 1st Quarter 2027.

What members can expect next: ABA will finalize directory updates, advance quality and verification tools, and continue building more useful workforce and data reports and resources for burn centers and members.

Education & Workforce

YELLOW — Continued attention	**Movement since October:** Education initiatives are advancing, with several major deliverables moving into 2027.

Progress: ABA continues to modernize ABLS, expand on-demand learning, and strengthen education across the interprofessional burn team. Nursing competency development, professional recognition, and broader representation of advanced practice professionals are also moving forward.

What members can expect next: Members can expect continued ABLS modernization, new and expanded on-demand education, Nursing competency work, and additional workforce and leadership-development resources.

Research & Philanthropy

GREEN — On track	**Movement since October:** ABA Endowment development has moved from planning into early implementation and cultivation.

Progress: The Board approved a more formal structure for the ABA Endowment from a governance and investment framework. Early fundraising momentum continues in communications with corporate leadership and additional individual and corporate support under development. The endowment framework is being built to advance discovery, education, innovation, prevention, and preparedness.

What members can expect next: ABA will continue building endowment framework with feedback from bylaws committee, leadership, donor engagement, and campaign readiness ahead of a broader public launch connected with ABA 2027 in Chicago.

Preparedness & Prevention

GREEN — On track	**Movement since October:** National readiness work continues to advance through collaboration, testing, education, and planning.

Progress: ABA is continuing to build on RITCA testing and regional coordination work while strengthening disaster-readiness education and provider training. This work supports better national situational awareness, preparedness, and coordination across the entire burn-care community.

What members can expect next: Next steps include continued readiness planning, education, regional coordination, and preparation for the February 2027 Disaster Summit.

Partnerships & Sustainability

GREEN — On track	**Movement since October:** Strategic relationships and the financial plan for 2027 are increasingly aligned with ABA's mission and Strategic Plan.

Progress: The Board approved ABA's 2027 federal advocacy strategy and operating budget. ABA continues to deepen relationships with industry, burn centers, fire and emergency services, advocacy partners, and aligned organizations to expand impact and diversify support for the mission.

What members can expect next: Members can expect stronger federal advocacy, continued partnership development, and disciplined investment in the programs and infrastructure needed to move the Strategic Plan forward.

What this means for members: In the months ahead, members should see easier ways to engage legislators on issues important to the burn community; expanded education and workforce resources; continued advancement in quality, verification, and data; stronger disaster-readiness tools; new philanthropic opportunities through the ABA Endowment framework and more intentional collaboration with strategic partners.

Beginning in 2027, ABA will also invite new opportunities for regional burn conferences and programs to engage more directly with ABA at the national level. This will help connect important regional work with national education, research, advocacy, quality, workforce, preparedness, and partnership efforts, while giving members more ways to share ideas, identify needs, and participate in solutions.

ABA is also strengthening relationships with national organizations and federal partners. This includes engagement with the American Pediatric Surgical Association (APSA) around pediatric burn care at ABA 2027 while also continued collaboration with the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) on preparedness priorities, including the upcoming ABA Burn & Trauma Disaster Summit.

We are also actively working with the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma (ACS COT) on a joint guideline focused on burn care. This work is intended to bring burn-specific expertise into broader trauma care guidance and strengthen consistency in how patients with burn injury are recognized, managed, and referred across the trauma system.

For members, the goal is a more connected ABA, more opportunities to participate, stronger resources to support your work, and a greater collective voice for the burn community locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.

Together, these efforts remain focused on improving the lives of everyone affected by burn injury.