BECOME AN ADVOCATE AT THE TEXAS STATE CAPITOL

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL LEGISLATOR

FIRST, IDENTIFY YOUR REPRESENTATIVES AT: WWW.FYI.LEGIS.STATE.TX.US/

WAYS TO CONTACT

IN-PERSON VISIT
Be sure to meet your Representative or Senator in their district office!

ATTEND A TOWN HALL MEETING
Show up and be heard!

CALL THE OFFICE
Emails are okay, but calls are more effective. Be sure to provide your home address.

INVITE THEM TO A GROUP MEETING
Ask for a member to attend a group meeting in your community

TESTIFY AT A COMMITTEE HEARING
Registering support or opposition at a hearing is very effective.

AT THE MEETING

BE TRUTHFUL
If you don’t have a definitive answer or you’re unsure, “I don’t have that information, but I’ll be sure to get it to you” is a perfectly acceptable reply

BE SPECIFIC
Make a specific ask. Do you want them to support a bill? A rider? An amendment? Carry legislation? This is your time to let the member know.

BE RESPECTFUL
Just make your points as best you can to try to persuade them or find common grounds.

BE CONCISE
You may only get fifteen minutes - make them count!

BE PERSONAL
Just make your points as best you can to try to persuade them or find common grounds.

OTHER TIPS

THEY MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT YOUR ISSUE
If your lawmaker does not yet fully understand your issue, make sure to educate him or her!

GET TO KNOW THE STAFF
If you don’t get to meet the member, the Staff are typically very familiar with the issue and provide recommendations to

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LEAVE A DOCUMENT BEHIND
Leave a one-pager. Concise information is more likely to make it to the floor instead of ending up in a file cabinet.

FOLLOW THE MONEY!
Many policies have a budget component, and it can make or break the potential for movement on your issue. If

PASSING BILLS ISN’T EASY!
It’s much easier to kill legislation than to pass it, and there are many hurdles that any policy must go through.

FOLLOW UP!
Send a follow-up email to thank them for the meeting, answer any questions, tell them of any updates on the bill, and pro-

KEEP UP WITH THE AMENDMENTS
Pay attention to amendments, particularly if there’s something that you oppose. Even if a bill is dead, it may

VISIT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE
You should be talking to your lawmakers throughout the interim. That’s when legislators are deciding what they will be focusing on in the next session. It will also be a good opportunity to meet your representative face to face.