



# HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL LEGISLATOR

FIRST, IDENTIFY YOUR REPRESENTATIVES AT:

[WWW.FYI.LEGIS.STATE.TX.US/](http://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

It never hurts to 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 ground.

### BE CONCISE

You may only get fifteen minutes - make them count!

### BE PERSONAL

Tell a story about yourself or someone you know. A short anecdote can go a long way.

## 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!

### 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 UP!

Send a follow-up email to thank them for the meeting, answer any questions, tell them of any updates on the bill, and provide a digital copy of that one-pager.

### 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 their bosses.

### FOLLOW THE MONEY!

Many policies have a budget component, and it can make or break the potential for movement on your issue. If today's costs will save us money in the future, be sure to point that out.

### KEEP UP WITH AMENDMENTS

Pay attention to amendments, particularly if there's something that you oppose. Even if a bill is dead, it may come back as an amendment.

### 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.

### IT'S ALWAYS A GOOD TIME TO 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.