

5 Tips for Meeting with Your Legislator



- Prepare



- Deliver your message and listen



- Ask for a commitment



- Leave the door open for future communication



- Follow up!

PREPARE

Learn about your legislator.

You'll find a biography online (just type in the name, or go to www.leg.wa.gov).

Prepare what you want to say:

- Who you are and what you do
- What your issue is about and why you care
- What you want the legislator to do

Be ready to meet with staff instead of the legislator

Schedules change! Don't underestimate the value of talking with staff.

AT THE MEETING



Make a local connection: you share the same community with your legislator.

Orient the legislator in very basic terms.

Deliver your message in five minutes.

Listen to your legislator's questions – and if you don't know the answers, write them down and offer to follow up!

ASK FOR A COMMITMENT

As one legislator told a group: "Don't just ask for my *support*. In theory, I can support anything. If you want my VOTE, ask for my VOTE."

If your legislator is supportive, thank them. Then ask them to take a **specific action**: vote, make a budget request, or ask their colleagues for support.

If your legislator is undecided, offer to send more information and be sure to follow up.

Request that the legislator utilize you as a resource.



LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN FOR FUTURE ADVOCACY

- The legislator who is your strongest opposition today might be the vote you need on a different issue tomorrow.
- Be careful not to alienate, even if you strongly disagree.
- Be polite and focus on your goal.



FOLLOW UP

- Leave your contact information and our one-pager.
- Send a short thank you note.
- If your legislator made a commitment, thank them, and restate what he or she promised.

