

How to Communicate with Elected Officials

If you want your elected representatives to vote on laws in ways that reflect your values, it is important that you let them know what those values are. Here are some helpful hints about how to do that.

1. Find which legislators represent you.

Most elected officials are only going to be interested in hearing from people who can vote for or against them. So find out who represents you at the state level here <https://www.legis.ga.gov/find-my-legislator> and at the federal level here <https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member> If you live in an area that has recently been redistricted, and that information has not yet been updated on the state's website, you may call your county Board of Elections office to find out what district you are in.

2. Contact the legislators that represent you.

A face to face meeting is the most impactful way to connect with those who represent you. Call their offices to request an appointment either in their district or at the Capitol when the legislature is in session. You can also email, call or send a letter to your legislator. Their support staff will log the number of calls or emails for or against a specific issue. Town halls held by your legislators are also an effective way to share what you want to see done.

3. How to ask for what you want.

[1] State that you are their constituent. If you are contacting a state wide official, such as the governor, identify yourself as a Georgia voter.

[2] Georgia politicians listen to church-going constituents, so identify yourself as a person of faith. You can include your faith tradition or denomination, but DO NOT mention the name of the church you attend unless you have authority to speak on behalf of that church.

[3] Talk about only 1 issue per letter or phone call. **Remember, you can write/call as many times as you want on as many issues as you want.**

[4] If you have an in-person meeting, sharing personal experiences can be very persuasive. They can be about you, your neighbor, your friend or family member. However, if you are calling or emailing, you will need to keep it simple and short, so just stick to your request.

[5] Tell them what you are FOR.

[6] "Support" may not be the right verb; make it work with your universal value (keep families safe by [this action]).

[7] Tell them exactly what you want them to do – write legislation or how to vote on a specific bill = I urge you to vote YES on SB##).