

What do we need to do to move our elected officials on our issues?

Here are some ideas to keep in mind when you are trying to move an elected official to support one of our issues:

- We need to be visible with our legislator(s). It is important to get to know their staff, too.
- It is important to make the personal phone calls to the district, state and the Congressional office. Always be prepared to share personal stories. Share stories that show how the issue affects individuals and families.
- We can email personal stories to the legislative offices; be sure to include your name, address, phone number and if you are a constituent.
- Write letters to the editor and write responses to Op-Eds or other letters to the editor that are printed in your paper.
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- Set up a phone bank with community members. This gets many calls to people in the community asking them to take action by contacting a legislator.
- Use direct actions that are strategic and will put a face on the issue—make the personal connection. The media coverage will connect the issue to more community members and the elected official.
- Contact volunteer and service organizations to get people engaged whom the issues may directly affect.
- Meet with legislators on a regular schedule so they get to know the organization, the credibility of the organization and the membership. Share the work that is being done on an issue and report on the metrics in the region and statewide. Example: *“We knocked on 300,000 doors statewide”* or *“400 people attended an event about the issue in your district.”*
- Learn as much as possible about their web of relationships, their public statements and their votes on issues.
- Show up at public meetings and speak when appropriate.
- Attend public events and talk with others at the event. Share with them the work that is being done around the issue and ask them to contact their legislator.
- Hold community forums on issues and invite legislators.