



# Getting your message out

## Social media

Use social media to interact with your members of Congress and bring attention to issues you care about. These are also great tools for saying a public “thank you” when your representatives have done something you appreciate.

- **Facebook:** Monitor and contribute comments to your legislator’s official Facebook page. Post things you find meaningful and helpful and tag your legislator when relevant.
- **Twitter:** Send your members of Congress a direct tweet or mention them in your tweet.

## Letters to the editor

Congressional offices monitor what is said in local newspapers. It is not necessary to get a letter to the editor published in a large, national paper. It is much easier to get a letter printed in your local news-

paper and just as effective in terms of advocacy for your particular member of Congress.

- **Respond quickly.** Connect your letter to a recent news item, editorial or letter and name that article in your first sentence.
- **Keep it short.** Aim for 100–200 words.
- **Focus on one issue.** State your point clearly and make a local connection if at all possible. Cite a personal story or give any relevant personal background that increases your credibility on the issue.
- **Refer to your legislator by name** when relevant to the topic. For example, “. . . that is why I urge Rep. Smith to support this important legislation.”
- **Include your name, address and phone number.**

## Town hall meetings and other public events

Members of Congress frequently schedule town hall meetings and other public events when they are in their home district or state. Attending these gatherings is a great way to interact in person with your legislator(s), particularly if they are in a town hall format that allows for questions from the audience.

- Find out when and where your legislator will be participating in a public event.
- Encourage family members and friends to join you at the event.
- Before you attend, research the issue that you want to focus on. Come up with one or two clear, well-worded questions to ask the legislator.
- Ask the question(s) politely but firmly. Ask questions that invite details, not just a “yes” or “no” answer.
- If possible, speak directly with a legislator before or after a public speaking engagement.



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