

Advocacy 102: Letter Writing

Writing to your representative at the city, county or state level is a good way to express your concern and advocate for a particular solution.

Prepare for the letter

- Know as much as you can about the piece of legislation that you are calling about.
 - If possible know the representative's voting record on this or similar legislation in the past.
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Writing the letter

- **Write it yourself.** Personalized letters in your own words are best. If you are using a prewritten e-mail online consider personalizing the first few lines.
 - **Be thoughtful and personal but brief.** Share your knowledge and experience. This is where your research pays off!
 - **Include your name and address in the body of your letter.** This is how your representative will know you are their constituent, and how they will be able respond to you.
 - **Be specific and limit the letter to one topic.** If possible cite the bill number or title and clearly state your position on this topic.
 - **If you are using e-mail put your issue in the subject line.**
 - **Mention any groups or communities of which you are a part.**
 - **Be courteous and thank the representative for their time and consideration.**
 - **Try to keep your letter to one page.**
 - **Ask for a response.**
 - **Keep track, if your representative votes in agreement with your position write her/him a thank you letter.**
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Writing as a Community

One way a community can participate in the political and legislative process is by writing letters as a group. This can happen after worship or during coffee hour and is a great way to engage members and have a larger impact!

FAITH ALERTS

To receive e-mail alerts and assistance writing and targeting legislators sign up at:

www.faithadvocacy.org



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