

A Few Tips on Making Your Voice Heard

Betsy Comstock, 5/12/2017



The most effective methods are PERSONAL:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. In person visit | Also effective: Letter to the editor in a local |
| 2. Telephone call | newspaper; attendance at in-district event, |
| 3. Email message | especially if you speak and are clear that you |
| 4. Postcard | are a constituent. |
| 5. Letter | |

Not as effective: Most offices are not systematically tallying constituent input from social media such as Facebook or Twitter. Mass-produced mailings and on-line petitions are also not highly regarded because it's not possible to verify that a constituent is sending it.

When you telephone:

1. State your **name, town, and zip code**.
2. Clearly state the **one issue** or piece of legislation you are calling about. State the name or number of the legislation, if you know it.
3. Clearly state **what you are asking** your elected official to do.
4. Ideally, include a personal anecdote or **reason** you feel the way you do.
5. Speak politely and end with a **thank you**. If the person has supported the issue you're calling about in the past, thank them for doing so.

Don't worry if your message goes to voicemail – aides will listen to it and tally your input just the same.

Sample telephone call template:

"Hello, my name is _____. I'm a constituent from __(town)____, Massachusetts, Zip Code _____.

I am calling about _____.

I strongly urge _(Senator/Rep...)_____ to please _____

_____.

This is important to me because _____

_____.

Thank you very much."

A Few Tips on Making Your Voice Heard

Betsy Comstock, 5/12/2017



The most effective methods are PERSONAL:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. In person visit | Also effective: Letter to the editor in a local |
| 2. Telephone call | newspaper; attendance at in-district event, |
| 3. Email message | especially if you speak and are clear that you |
| 4. Postcard | are a constituent. |
| 5. Letter | |

Not as effective: Most offices are not systematically tallying constituent input from social media such as Facebook or Twitter. Mass-produced mailings and on-line petitions are also not highly regarded because it's not possible to verify that a constituent is sending it.

When you telephone:

1. State your **name, town, and zip code**.
2. Clearly state the **one issue** or piece of legislation you are calling about. State the name or number of the legislation, if you know it.
3. Clearly state **what you are asking** your elected official to do.
4. Ideally, include a personal anecdote or **reason** you feel the way you do.
5. Speak politely and end with a **thank you**. If the person has supported the issue you're calling about in the past, thank them for doing so.

Don't worry if your message goes to voicemail – aides will listen to it and tally your input just the same.

Sample telephone call template:

"Hello, my name is _____. I'm a constituent from __(town)____, Massachusetts, Zip Code _____.

I am calling about _____.

I strongly urge _(Senator/Rep...)_____ to please _____

_____.

This is important to me because _____

_____.

Thank you very much."