










GETTING CONNECTED: WHO REPRESENTS ME?

Knowing your elected officials is the first step in effective advocacy.

 Save their contact info in your phone and email to stay engaged!

Find Your Elected Officials

-  **Wisconsin State Legislators**
maps.legis.wisconsin.gov
-  **U.S. Senators** - <https://www.senate.gov/senators/Home> | [U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin](#)
[Ron Johnson Senator from Wisconsin](#)
Contact forms and office numbers for Tammy Baldwin & Ron Johnson, and a web form for emailing. No email addresses are provided.
-  **U.S. House of Representatives**
house.gov
Find your representative and their contact info including a web form for emailing.
-  **Local Government**
Check your county or city website. Start here:
 - Milwaukee County: findyourcountysupervisor.com
 - City of Milwaukee: milwaukee.gov/electedreps
 - Ozaukee County: wi-ozaukeecounty.civicplus.com
 - Racine County: racinecounty.com/government
 - City of Racine: cityofracine.org
 - Waukesha County: waukesacounty.gov/Supervisors
-  **Ballotpedia – Who Represents Me**
ballotpedia.org/Who_represents_me
Full list of federal & state officials based on your address with links for more information.
-  **MyVote Wisconsin – My Elected Officials**
<https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/My-Elected-Officials>
Full list of your elected officials from school board to president. You can also use MyVote to check your voter registration, request an absentee ballot, determine your polling place and much more.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

Strong advocacy starts with strong connections.

Do Your Homework

- Review their website and social media.
- Learn their priorities and which committees they serve on.
- Sign up for their newsletter—and read it!

Show Up & Speak Up

- Attend town halls, listening sessions, and public events.
- Introduce yourself and share your interests.
- Follow and engage with them on social media.

Make the First Move

- Invite them to meet in the district—coffee shops or agency visits work well.
- Schedule visits to their office in Madison or Washington DC.
- Take photos and share them with your thank you.
- Invite them to speak at an agency event.

Build Staff Connections

- Get to know their staff—they're key to scheduling and answering policy questions such as status of hearings and pending bills.
- Staff are essential to assisting with constituent requests.

Be a Resource

- Share relevant stories, articles, or data.
- Offer your perspective on issues they're working on.

Say Thank You

- Send a personal note, card, or photo.
- Express appreciation—especially when they take action on your issue.
- Share a thank you post on social media.
- Recognize great outcomes with a certificate of appreciation or award.



COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

There's no single "right" way—calls, emails, and letters all matter. Choose the method that fits your timeline and goal. Here's how to make your message count:

✓ **Start with Your Own Legislators**

- Elected officials prioritize input from their constituents—those who live and vote in their district.
- If you're contacting someone outside your district (e.g., committee members), know your message may carry less weight.

📄 **Always Include:**

- Your full name, address, phone, and email.
- A clear statement that you're a constituent (if applicable).
- The bill number and your position (e.g., "Oppose AB 1234" in the subject line).

🕒 **Be Timely**

- Messages must arrive before a vote to influence it.
- Voicemails and emails can be sent at any time of day.

💬 **Be Personal**

- Share how the issue affects you, your family, or your community.
- Use your own words—authentic stories leave lasting impressions.

🤝 **Be Courteous**

- Stay respectful and keep your cool, even when you disagree.
- Staff and legislators have tough jobs and may often handle unhappy callers. Remember to say thank you.

Resource:


https://legis.wisconsin.gov/lc/media/zy0c5jg4/citizen_contact_legislator.pdf





MEETING WITH YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Requesting a Meeting

Federal Officials (House & Senate)


 US Senators: Use their online form to request a meeting or invite to an event. For US Representatives, check their website or call.





 For district meetings, follow up with a call to the district office. It's often easier to meet with staff locally. Members may be available during recess.

 DC meetings require more lead time.

- [Request with Sen. Baldwin](#)
- [Request with Sen. Johnson](#)
- [Representatives | house.gov](#) to find your rep's website.


State Legislators

 During session:

-  Mondays and Fridays are best for district meetings.
 -  Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday are best for Madison meetings.
 -  Email your request with:
 - Purpose & timeline
 - Attendees
 - Preferred location (Madison or district)
 - Your phone & home address (if constituent)
-  Follow up with a call in a few days to confirm or schedule.

Local Officials

 Check their website for how to request a meeting or email your request.

 Call if you don't hear back.

Governor & Lt. Governor

 Use the online form: [Governor's Meeting Request](#)

✅ **Before You Meet**

Confirm the Details

- ✉️ Send a confirmation email with:
 - Time, date, location
 - Your contact info
 - Subject line like: "*Confirming 10/22 9 AM meeting at Happy Days Coffee Shop*"
- ☎️ Call or email the day before to reconfirm.
- 📱 Share your cell number for last-minute updates.

Prep Your Materials

- 📄 Bring a 1–2 page position paper or fact sheet:
 - What's the issue?
 - Why it matters to you
 - What you're asking the official to do
- 🗣️ Practice your talking points.
- 👥 Bring someone with lived experience or a compelling story — it makes a difference.

🕒 **Before the Meeting**

- Arrive early to allow time for parking and getting organized.
- If meeting at a public location, secure a table in a quiet area.
- At homes or agencies, arrange seating for note-taking. Offer water or coffee.

👤 **Introductions**

- If representing an organization: share your name, mission, location, and membership size.
- If speaking as an individual: identify yourself as a constituent and mention any personal or professional ties to the legislator.

🔔 **Opening the Conversation**

- Thank the official for meeting with you.
- If they've supported your issue before, thank them.

💬 **Presenting Your Issue**

- Clearly state the issue, your position, and the action you're requesting.
- Use plain language and avoid acronyms.
- Share a few key facts to support your position.
- Emphasize how the issue affects the official's district, community, or state.
- Share a personal story or example that illustrates why the issue matters to you.
- Mention other organizations, leaders, or lawmakers who support your position.

Engaging the Legislator

- Listen actively and allow time for their response.
- Stay on message if the conversation drifts.
- Ask for their advice. They may know others you should meet with or may be able to request more information about your policy issue.

Answering Questions

- Respond honestly. If you don't know an answer, offer to follow up.
- Make a clear ask with a direct yes-or-no question (e.g., "Will you co-sponsor the bill?" "Will you help research this issue or get a fiscal analysis?")
- Be prepared to respond to any answer:
 - Turn a "Yes" into a champion.
 - Help an "Undecided" become a yes.
 - Learn from a "No."

Leave-Behind Materials

- Provide a 1–2 page fact sheet summarizing your position and your "ask".

Closing

- Review what the elected official agreed to do for you and any follow up you agreed to do.
- Take a photo with the official and meeting participants. It may be used in their newsletters or social media.
- Always thank the official for their time, regardless of their stance.

Follow Up







- Write down what you learned and any next steps. Update your advocacy strategy as needed.
- Post a photo on your social media thanking the official and tag them.
- Send a thank you and address any follow up questions. You may want to include a photo.











TESTIFYING AT A PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearings let citizens speak up on bills, rules, and policies. Hearings are open to the public, but participation is limited to testimony; members of the public can't ask questions of committee members.




Prep Before the Hearing

-  **Confirm logistics:** Call the Committee Clerk to ask about time limits and testimony procedures.
-  **Know the bill:** Read it, highlight key points, and organize your thoughts. Check in with allies who share your position.
-  **Bring copies:** Print enough testimony for committee members + extras for allies and media.
-  **Email it:** Send your testimony to the clerk, committee members, and your own representatives.
-  **Request disability related accommodations:** Email the Chair and Clerk ASAP for disability related accommodations such as ASL interpreters — then follow up by phone.
-  **Show solidarity:** Coordinated shirts or pins help signal support.

At the Hearing

-  **Arrive early:** Use the time to network and settle in.
-  **Register:** Fill out a hearing slip or electronic registration form to indicate your position and that you want to speak.
-  **Submit testimony:** Hand copies to the Clerk for distribution.
-  **Be camera-aware:** Hearings may be livestreamed or recorded.
-  **Be patient:** Long hearings happen — bring water and stay flexible.
-  **Testify clearly:** Stick to your time limit, personalize your story, and avoid repeating others.
-  **Stay respectful:** Maintain decorum; be prepared for questions.
-  **Capture the moment:** Ask someone to snap a photo for social media or follow-up posts.

After the Hearing

-  **Connect with allies:** Share notes and plan next steps.
-  **Talk to media:** If invited, share your perspective.
-  **Follow up:** Email committee members to reinforce your message.

Resource: https://legis.wisconsin.gov/lc/media/13bdzj3m/citizen_testify_final.pdf

ADVOCACY RESOURCES

A Citizen's Guide to Participation in the Wisconsin State Legislature

[A Citizen's Guide | Wisconsin Legislative Council](#)

This guide includes the following:

- [Introduction to the Legislature](#)
- [How to Find Legislative Documents and Follow the Legislative Process](#)
- [How to Contact Your Legislator](#)
- [How to Testify at a Public Hearing](#)
- [Glossary of Common Legislative Terms](#)

WisconsinEye - <https://wiseye.org/>

WisconsinEye Public Affairs Network is the State Capitol's Public Affairs Network, a role similar to C-Span. The network provides live coverage of legislative hearings, legislative sessions, the WI Supreme Court, news conferences and speeches by policy makers, interviews with candidates, and much more. You must register and set up an account – there is no charge.

Notification Schedule - <https://notify.legis.wisconsin.gov/login?ReturnUrl=%2f>

Get personalized E-mail notifications based on Wisconsin's legislative activity. Follow legislation by subject, proposal, committee, or authors.

Wisconsin Blue Book - <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/LRB/blue-book/>

Published biennially, the Wisconsin Blue Book provides the legislature and the public with information on state officers and governmental organizations, along with statistical information and articles of general interest. It is available online, and you may also request a copy from your state legislator.

Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/LRB/>

The [Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau](#), is a nonpartisan legislative service agency that provides legal, research, and information services to the Wisconsin Legislature, including draft all legislation.

WI Legislative Fiscal Bureau (LFB) – <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb>

LFB is a nonpartisan service agency of the Wisconsin Legislature. The Bureau provides fiscal and program information and analyses to the Legislature, its committees, and to individual legislators.

Eye on Lobbying - [Welcome - Lobbying in Wisconsin](#)

Provides information about who is lobbying and what they are lobbying about. Use to identify who is taking a position on a bill you are following.