



LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Issues can be discussed with elected officials by individuals and nonprofits alike. It is essential to take into account both the available time and the potential outcomes of your actions when deciding how to interact with legislators. Actions with greater impact may require more time and preparation.

Don't assume your legislators are familiar with the specifics around issues that matter to you because legislators are dealing with a wide range of topics. While lawmakers want to know how certain issues affect their district, they frequently face pressure from other lawmakers and lobbying organizations.

Demonstrating to your legislators why these issues require attention can be made easier by providing personal stories and examples from real-life situations. Each legislator has their own preferences regarding engagement. Building a genuine relationship with a legislator and his or her staff can be extremely beneficial.

MONTANA STATE LEGISLATURE

Montana state government is comprised of three branches - Executive, Legislative and Judicial. The Legislature is comprised of 100 members in the House of Representatives and 50 Senators. Each citizen in Montana is represented by one Senator and one Representative (along with additional U.S. Congressional Representatives) based on where the individual lives. Legislators are average citizens just like you!

WAYS TO INTERACT WITH DECISION MAKERS

- Call or write an email directly
- Schedule a one-on-one meeting
- Provide public comment or testimony during a legislative meeting
- Attend a town hall meeting or public event
- Become a state legislator

LEGISLATIVE VISIT

Tip Sheet



CONTACTING YOUR ELECTED OFFICIAL

Tip Sheet

