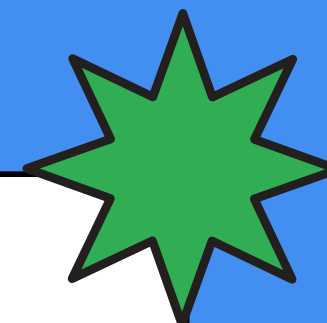
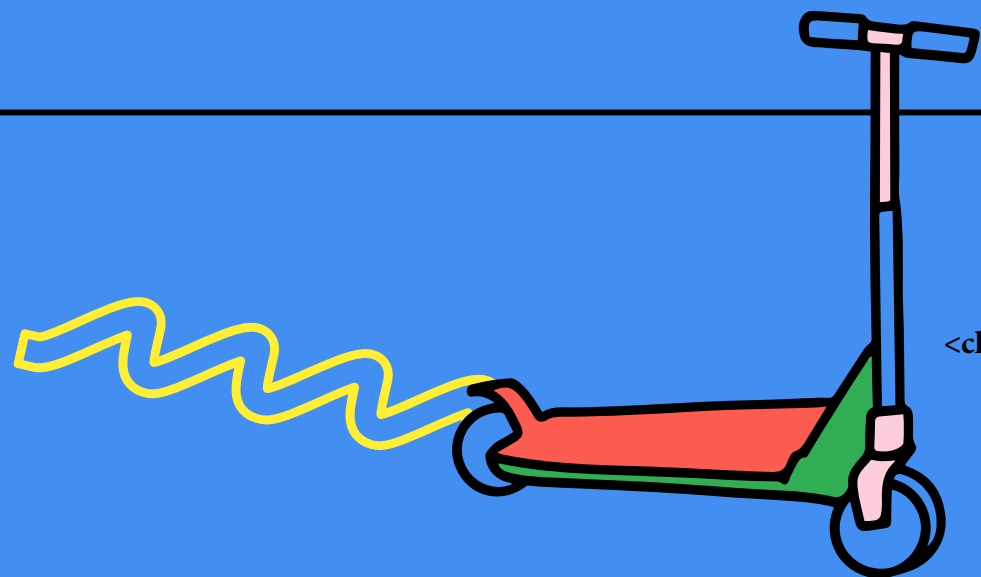


YOUR VOICE MATTERS.

Talking to your lawmaker.

<click the scooter to be transported to a scooter utopia

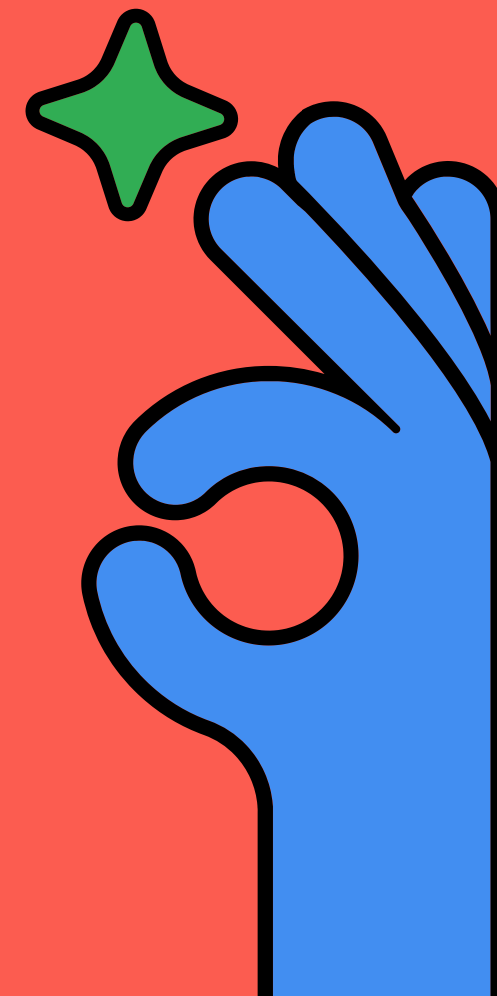
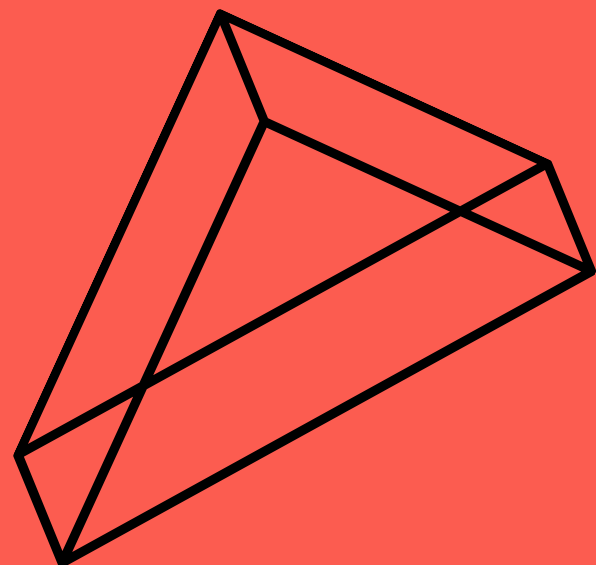


WELCOME



OVERVIEW

- Why it's important?
- Make sure you are heard.
- How to tell your story!



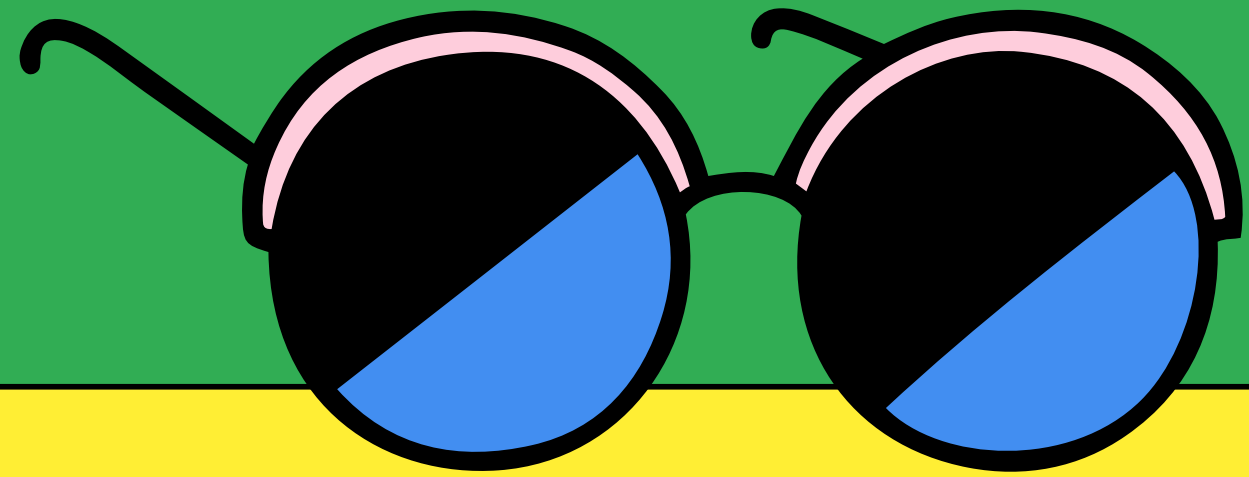


Showing up

When you show up consistently in small ways, you create more chances that you're in the right place when opportunities appear. Showing up really means to be present in more than one way. It's about appearing consistently for things that matter. This can be showing up in your community by making an effort to create change, showing up for your family by listening to them, and showing up for yourself by pursuing your goals.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT?

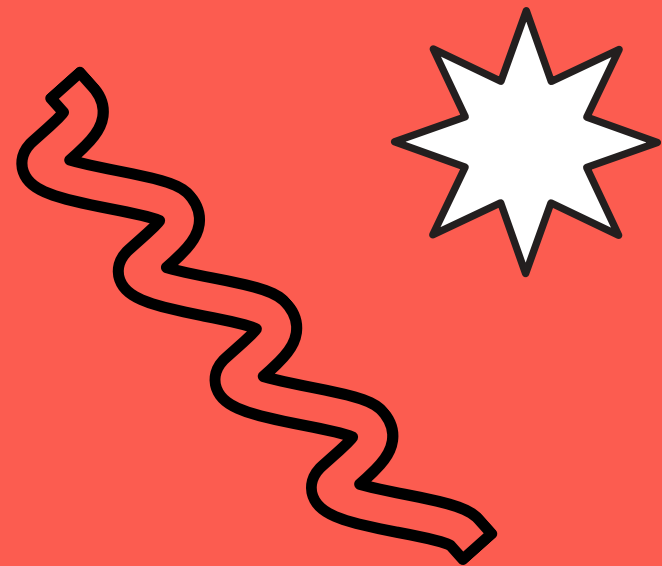


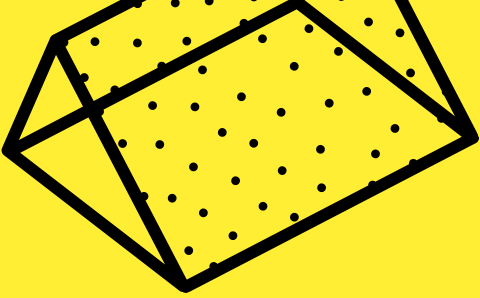


MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD IS IMPORTANT.

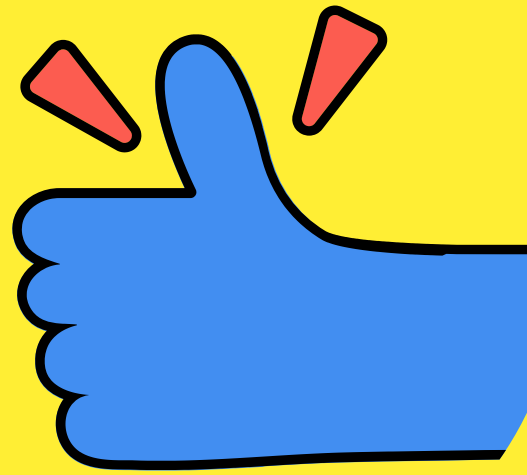
As a young person, you might not have the ability to vote yet, but it's your right to make your voice heard to lawmakers. Lawmakers work for everyone, even those who can't vote. They need to hear from you to know what you need.

QUICK RECAP





OUR COUNTRY SHARES POWER



National



Affects people in the whole country.

State



Affects someone that lives in a particular state.

Local



Affects someone that lives in a particular city.

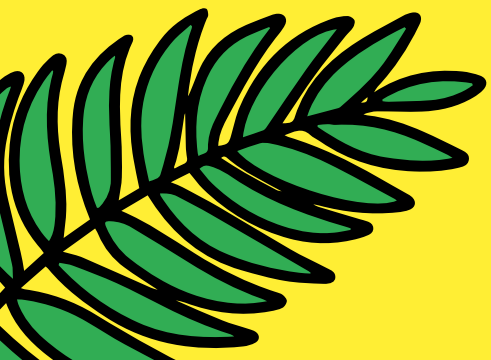
Can you think of any examples of laws from each?



The American With Disabilities Act

Illegal to own a lion in Tennessee/Dynamic Accessibility Act

landlord to provide notice prior to an increase in rent





Federal Elected Officials

[Contact the White House](#)

[Congress](#)

State Elected Officials

[Governor](#)

[Find your legislator](#)

Local City

[Mayor](#)



[Get contact information for your city, county, and town officials.](#)

**FIND YOUR
LAWMAKER**








**CREEP ON YOUR
GOVERNMENT
OFFICIAL A LITTLE.**



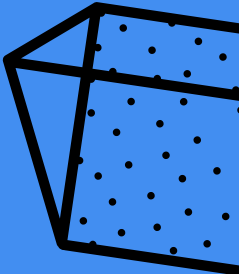
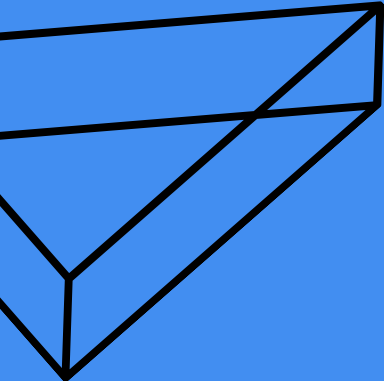
**CREEP ON THEM
LIKE YOU'VE GOT A
CRUSH.**



BALLOTPEDIA



Know who you're meeting, know what party they're in, know some laws they have proposed. Look em up! Creep on them like you've got a crush on them. Follow them on social media and look at their official website. You're looking to build a relationship with your lawmaker, so they can remember you and what you care about.





FIND A LOCAL ORGANIZATION

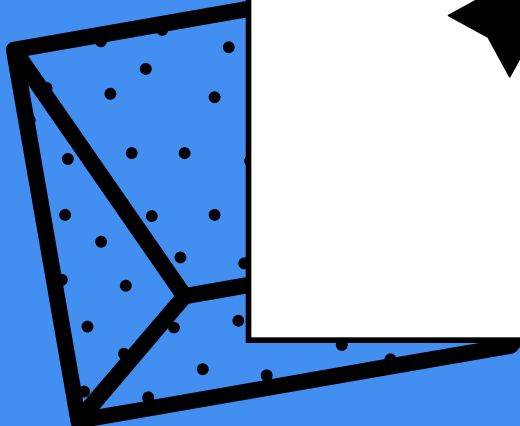
There are many great reasons for building relationships with an advocacy groups, and lawmakers know that local organizations are committed to the people they serve. Some advocacy groups avoid the promotion or endorsement of any lawmaker, and they make a good starting point to get your heard.



HOW TO TELL YOUR STORY.



Being effective and being right.



◆ Everyone has a story! Personal stories are just stories that highlight the importance of an issue, program, or service in an individual or family's life. Personal stories make policy "real". It's easy to talk about policies or laws in big numbers. For example, a bill may include \$800 billion in cuts, but personal stories make it not just about numbers. ◆



ADA Hearing Video

Deaf

Joint House-Senate Hearing On Discrimination the
Basis on the Basis of Disability.

September, 27 1988

Reading Commisioners

Video

ADVOCATES





Being right.

Sometimes people go from being right to being righteous. That can lose you supporters along the way. You can't win the battle and the war in one step. There's a balance that to sharing what you're passionate about and being smart about communicating that to lawmakers.

**BEING RIGHT
OR BEING
EFFECTIVE**



Being Effective.

Pause before you head into a challenging situation. Ask yourself, "What is the long-term impact I want to have? What is the most effective approach?" This pause is major, as it will help you approach the situation with a focus on leading from a place of creativity and vision. It helps you get curious, preparing you to create dialogue instead of debate.

**LET'S
SOLVE
TOGETHER**



Beginning

This is your opener. Introduce yourself and the main point you would like those listening or reading to know. What is the main claim you're making.

Middle

You need to ensure that the audience gets the message by informing them why something is important.

End

Why is this relevant?
What's the moral or point?
Who is this message for?
What do you want them to do?

THE BASICS



HOW TO ENGAGE LAWMAKERS ON SOCIAL MEDIA



For many elected officials, social media is a megaphone for announcing policy positions, discussing issues with constituents, and, of course, sharing the occasional selfie.

Study their style


Familiarize yourself with the kind of posts they've typically engaged with in the past. This is helpful in seeing what organizations have had success in garnering engagement from particular lawmakers and what tactics they used to get that engagement.

Tag to grab their attention

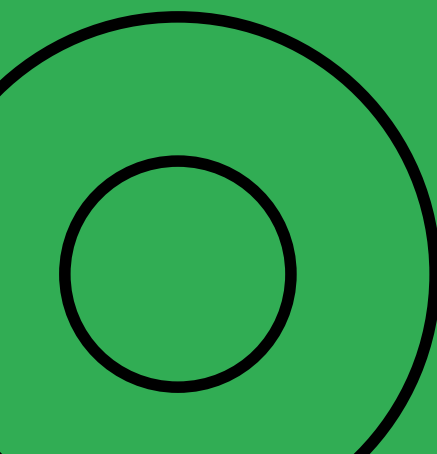
After you've familiarized yourself with their social media habits, take steps to get their office's attention. Start by tagging their official Twitter or Facebook handles in any post you want them to see.

Include location to signal constituency

Lawmakers prefer to engage with their own constituents. If you call into a lawmakers office, the first thing you are typically asked is "Where do you live?" On social media it can be hard to tell where someone is from, and whether that person lives in the member's district. To boost your chances of having a member engage with your social media content, find a way to signal that you are a constituent.

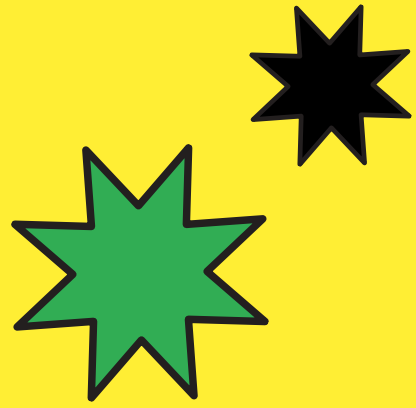


ACTIVITY

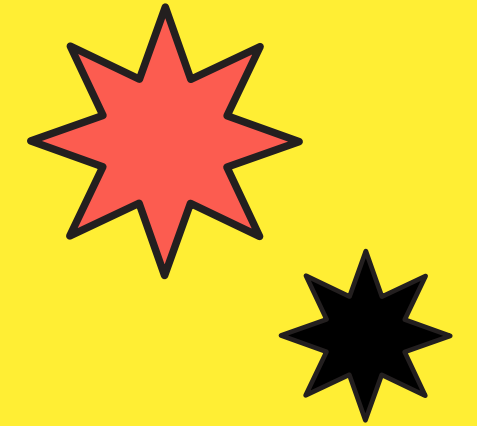




**WHAT ARE
ISSUES THAT
MATTER TO
YOU?**



TRANSITIONS



Some phrases you could use to move to your next point.

Introduction

We will be looking at/identifying/investigating the effects of...

Today I will be discussing...

My name is ___ I believe...

Emphasizing importance

More importantly...

This is essential...

Primarily...

Mainly...

Conclusion

Let's recap on what we've spoken about today...

Let me briefly summarize the main points...

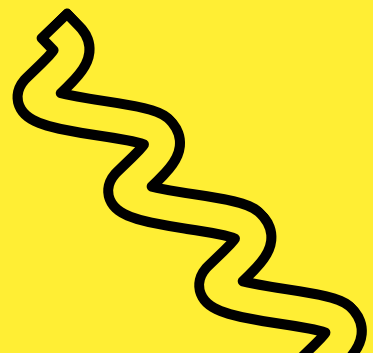
Call to Action

Stand strong against/for

You may be thinking how can I help in this matter?

My aim is to encourage you to go further and...

What I'm requesting of you is...



Shift between similar or disagreeing points

In the same way...

Likewise...

Equally...

This is similar to...

Similarly...

Conversely...

Despite this...

However...

On the contrary...

Now let's consider...

Even so...

Nonetheless...

We can't ignore...

On the other hand...

Moving on

First, let's begin with...

I will first cover...

My first point covers...

To get started, let's look at...