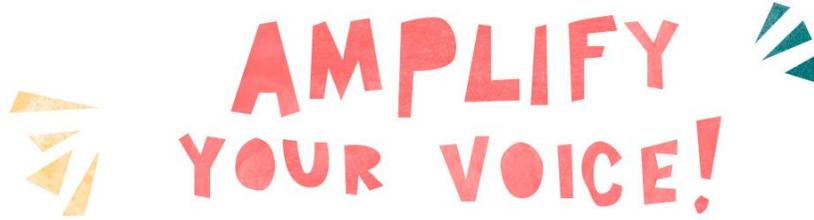




Grassroots 101: Calling Your Legislator

AMPLIFY
YOUR VOICE!

The text 'AMPLIFY YOUR VOICE!' is written in a bold, red, sans-serif font. To the left of the text is a yellow megaphone icon, and to the right is a teal megaphone icon.

*A synonym for a **Legislator** is “Public Servant” that means that they serve the public and hence you are their BOSS! So let’s learn how we can use our voices to guide them to do their job in the best interest of our communities.*

Overview:

Calling your legislator is one of the most effective tools you have so that they can hear directly from you, their constituent, about what affects you in your life and that you are civically engaged to hold them accountable.

Goal:

The goal of this tool is to reach your city, county, state and/or federal legislators with your concerns.

Time Required: 10 minutes

Resources Needed:

- Phone (landline, cellphone)
- Confidence

Objectives:

- To contact your legislator or their staff.
- Make your concerns heard.
- Ask a questions to legislation and their stance.
- Request a response.
- Learn if your legislator is listening to your concerns

Steps:

- **Try to get the number for your legislator's district office.** When your legislator is in your district they will have more time to speak with you, and they're more likely to help if they think of you as their constituent.
- **Ask to speak with your legislator directly.** Telephone calls are often taken by a staff member, not the legislative member.
- **If your legislator is not available,** it's important to request a written response to your phone call. Requesting a written response to your call ensures it will be counted in the total number of calls. It's also a good idea to write down the name and title of the person you speak with. Keep in mind that it is important to develop and maintain a good relationship with your legislator's staff members.



Upon reaching your state legislator on the phone, it's easiest to follow these four basic steps:

1. **IDENTIFY** yourself by name and the organization that you represent or the town from which you are calling. Legislators are most responsive to their constituents, the people who keep them in office. If you voted for them, let them know.
2. **EXPLAIN** why you are calling: "I am calling regarding_ (Name your concern or issue)_."
3. **ENGAGE** them in conversation about your issue. For instance, you can ask your legislator if they are familiar with your issue. Your legislator may not have prior knowledge, so be prepared to educate them. Use personal and local examples to make your point.
4. **THANK** them for their time and consideration.

Follow-up:

After you call your legislator, you can recruit like-minded people to call their legislators on behalf of your group. The quantity of phone calls made to legislators is critical to any campaign. A legislator will be more likely to get involved if he or she believes that many of their constituents care about the same issue. You may also call more than once to talk with your legislator about your issue.

Additional resources:

- National Legislators Search <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>
- Washington state District Look Up <http://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder>
- Congress District Look Up <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/map>

Questions?

Contact rein@wecprotects.org or oskar@latinocommunityfund.org.

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