

Grassroots Networking tips: Getting on the Schedule

Timing is important when working to educate legislators about an issue or sharing news from their districts.

Fortunately, there are many ways to reach out to legislators, and depending on the timeliness of the issue, the appropriate modes of communication are easy to identify.

For example, if your information is meant to influence an important committee meeting or vote, time is of the essence — make a phone call the day before or the day of the scheduled meeting

or vote, a written letter or email may not be received in time. If you know the legislative assistant or other staff member, consider asking them to send your communication to the legislator.

Remember, have a goal in mind and know who to ask for before calling the office.

Consider the following requests and communication approaches:

Scenario #1:

You want to voice your opinion on a vote.



Call and leave your opinion summary.

Scenario #2:

You want to connect in a 5-minute discussion.



Request a phone appointment or drop-in time

Scenario #3:

You want to connect in a longer discussion.



Request phone appointment or inperson meeting availability

Scenario #4:

You want to schedule a group meeting.



Call 1-2 weeks in advance and have participant details ready.