



HOW TO TALK SO YOUR RHODE ISLAND LEGISLATOR WILL LISTEN

The RI General Assembly meets every year during a regular session. Although the exact dates change annually, regular session starts in January and usually runs through June.

1) Be prepared, be brief, be courteous.

- Be prepared. Before contacting your legislator, research the issue and plan what you want to say.
- Be brief. Legislators want to know what you think, but they are very busy, especially during session. Keep letters to 1-2 paragraphs and phone messages to a few sentences.
- Be firm but courteous. If possible, include praise for a position the legislator has taken in the past.

2) Meet in person.

- Go to events. Attend town halls, forums, and other meetings where they are speaking. Come prepared with a question. Be sure to introduce yourself after.
- Go to the Statehouse. Visit your legislators during session. Contact them in advance to let them know you are coming.
- Go to their office. Out of session, legislators have more time. Set up a meeting and bring like-minded friends.

3) Write them a letter.

- Personal letters can be very effective. Legislators read their mail. Typed, handwritten, or email are all fine. Research appropriate messaging, or use your own words. Encourage others to write.

4) Call them.

- Talk to your legislators. Simply pick up the phone and call them. You can find their contact information below. When you reach someone, state the issue, what you want them to do about it, and why it matters to you.

5) Contact info and more information:

Physical address of the State House:

82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Mailing address for any legislator:

[Legislator's Name]
Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Find a legislator:

www.rilin.state.ri.us

Search and track bills:

www.websserver.rilin.state.ri.us/legislation

MORE INFO ON CIVIL LIBERTIES-RELATED LEGISLATION:

www.riaclu.org/legislation

American Civil Liberties Union
of Rhode Island
www.riaclu.org
(401) 831-7171