LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY 101

If you don't know the names of your state and federal legislators, please visit www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us
CONTENT OUTLINE

Section 01: WHY WE ADVOCATE
Section 02: CONGRESS
Section 03: TEXAS LEGISLATURE
Section 04: BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
SECTION 01: WHY WE ADVOCATE

If you do not turn on to politics, politics will turn on you

Ralph Nader
There are 100 Senators -- two from each state. They represent all residents of their state.

There are currently 52 Republicans, 46 Democrats, and two Independents.

Senators are up for re-election every six years (staggered).

They are in session year-round (not including holidays).
There are 435 members of the House of Representatives, 36 of whom are from Texas.

There are currently 239 Republicans and 193 Democrats (with three vacant seats).

Members are up for re-election every two years.

Representatives have a constituency of about 710,000 people each.
There are 31 state senators in Texas.
Each Senator serves about 806,000 constituents.
There are 20 Republicans and 11 Democrats.
There are 23 men and 8 women.
Elected every four years.
There are 150 state representatives in Texas.
Each representative serves about 167k constituents.
There are 95 Republicans and 55 Democrats.
There are 121 men and 29 women.
Elected every two years.
• Session ran from January 10 to May 29, 2017.
• 6,631 bills filed; 1,139 passed.
• Bills come into effect August 18, 2017 (91 days after session ends).
• Multiple lawsuits filed over SB4, the "sanctuary cities" bill. More are expected to be filed over an anti-abortion bill and possibly one that bans straight-ticket voting.
Meetings < Phone calls < Emails

Be happy with whomever is taking the time to meet with you.
SECTION 04: BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

CONGRESS
Year-round opportunities for advocacy

TEXAS LEGE
18 months when not in session
SECTION 04: BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

ETIQUETTE

Be truthful.
Be concise.
Be specific.
Be respectful.
Be personal.
CALL TO ACTION

Research your legislator. Learn their committees. Find out what interests them. Sign up for their newsletter. Join an action group.
RESOURCES

POLITICAL
League of Women Voters | lwvtexas.org
The Watson Wire | kirkwatson.com

LOCAL
Literacy Texas | literacytexas.org
Texas Association for Literacy Education | texasreaders.org

NATIONAL
Reading Partners | readingpartners.org
Pro Literacy | proliteracy.org | ncte.org
CONTACT

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