

# Tips for Working With Your Legislator When...



## They strongly agree with you.

*Thank them!* And ask them to take a **leading or active role on this issue** in the legislature among their colleagues, in the media, and in the community. **Ask for advice** on who else you should speak with, what supporting arguments they think are effective, and any special strategies you should use. **Ask if they will “lobby” undecided legislators.... then thank them again!**

## They're undecided.

*Inform them of your interest.* Present your argument as concisely and cleanly as possible and **ask what their reservations are.** Alter your lobbying strategy accordingly. Ask them if there are other individuals or organizations they would like to hear from, and offer to get any information or make connections.

**Keep in touch until they have made up their mind!**

## They agree with you.

*Thank them!*

Assure them of your continued interest in the issue, and your continued support of their position. **Ask if they would be willing to help in any way beyond their vote** (if so, follow the tips above).



## They're against your position.

*Determine how strongly they are opposed.* Try to persuade them to change their mind. **If they are not “swayable” but not strongly opposed, ask them not to lobby their colleagues.** In cases with a very close vote when you will not win unless they cooperate, ask them to “walk” when the vote is taken. If they strongly disagree, write and let them know of your opposition to their position. **Thank them for their time and try again on a different topic.**