



Meet with your representatives

Ordinary community members can build valuable relationships with their elected representatives – from state and federal legislators to county commissioners and mayors to sheriffs to city and county councilmembers. This worksheet will get you started on what you need to know to start meeting with your representatives today.

1. Pick the best person to meet with

Find out who represents you at the level of government you want to impact. Write their name(s) and contact information here:

Name	Email	Phone

2. Pick 1-2 issues you want to prioritize in your meeting

You'll want to make your meeting efficient and meaningful. Don't overwhelm your rep with too many issues. Write down one or two issues and a concise sentence that sums up your stance on those issues, including the most salient reasons behind your stance. These reasons can be personal or data-driven. But either way, they must be compelling to sway your representative.

3. Get informed about your issue

Do your research. Well-informed community members are the most helpful and impactful to their representatives. Compile the most important talking points (and their sources) onto a single document you can talk from and leave behind with your representative.

4. Set up a meeting with your representative

Contact your representative and ask to set up a meeting. We recommend following these tips:

- Research who your rep is – find out their profession, political affiliation, hobby, neighborhood, ward, stance on the issue you want to present, etc, and look for anything you may have in common
- Be sure to mention that you are a constituent

- Promise not to take up much time – ask for 10-20 minutes
- Offer to meet your representative wherever is easiest for them
- Plan to go with 1-2 constituent buddies
- Offer a show of good will – treat your representative to a glass of lemonade or bring them home-baked cookies

5. Pledge to follow the “Action Utah Way”

You know in your heart what kind of constituent you are. Are you a bridge builder or a barn stormer? Either is great, and there is a place for both in Utah. But if you plan to meet with your representative under the Action Utah name and/or want to use Action Utah issue one-sheets in your meetings your representatives, we ask you to make a pledge to follow our philosophy in all your interactions with your representatives. The Action Utah Way will help you build a lasting relationship with your representatives that will carry you into additional fruitful meetings in the future and allow you to keep impacting their decisions on issues that matter to you.

THE “ACTION UTAH WAY”

At Action Utah, we believe that building bridges is the most successful path to advocating for and creating good policy that reflects the beliefs and needs of more people in Utah. By coming together and engaging in respectful, civil discourse, we can find common ground between people from varied political ideologies and use mutual best interests to shape good policy. Bridge building starts with cultivating good relationships between community members and elected officials, lobbyists and advocacy organizations. Bridge builders rely on fact, commitment to working towards a positive outcome and elimination of partisan rhetoric. Whenever our members and volunteers advocate under the Action Utah name, we ask that they always follow the Action Utah Way.

I, _____, pledge to follow the Action Utah Way in all my interactions with my representatives whenever I advocate or lobby under the Action Utah name.

Signed, _____ Date: _____

6. Bring data to leave with your representative

Write up a concise page of information to leave with your rep. Or use ours. Action Utah can provide talking points and data in convenient one-sheet pamphlets on our initiatives for our members. These one-sheets are designed for you to print and bring with you to a meeting or lobbying event to speak from and leave behind with your representative within a larger, coordinated strategy. Please email us for more information and to sign up to meet with you representative about one of our initiatives. Plan to report back so we know how it went... and send us pictures!

7. Make a plan to follow up with your representative after the meeting

Commit to following up with your representative to provide them with any additional information they may request. Plan to track their choices and rhetoric on the issue and provide them with constructive feedback. Attend their town halls and/or pertinent public meetings.