

Effective Engagement with Policymakers Before, During, and After

Before the Meeting

Research and Preparation

Know the **decision-maker's history** on related issues.
Find out about other **relevant laws** being discussed.
Assess the cost of your suggestion and propose ways to **save money**.

Analyze Impact and Allies

Understand **how your concern affects the people** the policymaker represents.
Find **others who support your perspective**, including decision-makers
Collect **evidence** to back up your arguments.

Prepare for Opposition

Identify groups and decision-makers who **disagree** with your viewpoint.
Research their arguments and concerns.
Develop **effective responses** to address their opposition.

During the Meeting

Professional Conduct

Be **punctual** and dress **appropriately**.
Show **respect** and **professionalism** during the meeting.

Clear Communication

Be clear, organized, and concise.
Use language **policymakers understand**.
Back your arguments with **data** and **examples**.

Engage and Listen

Have **meaningful** conversations.
Pay attention to **policymakers' feedback**.
Value their input and be open to listening.

After the Meeting

Express Gratitude

Send a **thank-you note** to show thanks.

Fulfill Commitments

Keep your promises after the meeting.

Stay in Touch

Keep in **contact** with policymakers and their staff.
Share **relevant updates** or information.

Evaluate and Improve

Assess the **meeting's success**.
Find ways to **improve** and learn from it.

Sustained Engagement

Write **letters**, attend **hearings**, and join **policy discussions**.
Strengthen your message and build **lasting relationships**.

