

Who are my legislators?

Washington is divided into 49 legislative districts, each with two state representatives and one state senator. Use this website, and your residential address to find out who they are: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/>.

How can I contact my legislators?

Call the Legislative Hotline between 8 AM and 7 PM, Monday-Friday: **1-800-562-6000** (translation available).

To email your legislator, use the email formula:
firstname.lastname@leg.wa.gov.

When can I meet with legislators?

Anytime! During legislative sessions, meetings are generally short and about specific legislation. Meetings between legislative sessions can be up to an hour long and cover many topics.

Contact your legislator's assistant to schedule a meeting:
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/Rosters/Members>.

How should I prepare to meet with my legislators?

Identify which committees your legislators serve on and special policy interests they may have. You can find information about each legislator's assignments and priorities at <http://www.leg.wa.gov/>.

Identify which bills are coming up that reflect your priorities. You can learn about the status of specific bills here: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/>

Learn about the specific legislation you plan to talk about. What problem does it address? What is its impact? What are its benefits and risks? Which organizations support it and oppose it?

Plan your talking points. Be able to speak to these questions:

- Why is this legislation important to you?
- How will it affect you and/or your interest group? (You may want to use a brief personal story to illustrate the real-world impact of the legislation.)
- What are you asking them to do (i.e. support, oppose, amend)?

Assign roles for the meeting. One person could prepare to talk about the details of the issue or bill, one tells the personal story, one makes "the ask," and one remembers key points for follow-up.

Arrive on time for your meeting. This shows that you respect your legislator's time, and will continue to for any future meetings.

What should I do when I meet with my legislators?

Introduce yourself. Tell them where you live, your faith community or tradition, and that you're part of Faith Action Network.

Thank them for meeting with you.

Be brief, polite, to-the-point, and honest.

Stick to your assigned roles, if in a group.

Use your prepared talking points.

Allow legislators time to respond; listen to them, and find out where they stand on the issues.

Thank them for meeting with you. If the response is what you hoped for, thank them for their support. If it is not, thank them for meeting with you. If they are uncertain, ask what other information you can provide.

How should I follow up on my meetings with legislators?

Provide any promised information. If you told your legislator that you would provide additional information, make sure to do so.

Send a thank you note within one week. This underscores your interest in your issue.

Keep your organization informed about the outcome of your meeting.

Keep tabs on the status of the bill. You can do so here:

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/>.

Comment on pending bills here: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/pbc/>, referencing your legislators in the Bill Comments form, or call the Legislative Hotline: **1-800-562-6000**.

HELPFUL LINKS:

WA State Legislature Website: www.leg.wa.gov

Legislative Hotline: **1-800-562-6000**, translation is available.

During the Legislative Session: 8 AM – 7 PM, Monday – Friday

During the Interim: 8:30 AM-12 PM and 1-4:30 PM, Monday –Friday

Find Your District: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder>

Bill Information: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/>

FAN Bill Tracker: <http://fanwa.org/advocacy/bill-tracker/>

If you are interested in meeting with your legislators outside of Interfaith Advocacy Day or during the interim between legislative sessions, FAN can help you set up a meeting. Contact us at fan@fanwa.org for help starting the process.