

How Do I Approach Policymakers? Discussion Starter



HOW DO I APPROACH POLICYMAKERS? OVERVIEW

Do you want to be part of moving the needle on a policy matter? Session 2 of Advocacy Starter Kit can demystify the process and encourage your participation. Context from ELCA advocacy staff and Capitol Hill staff, combined with state and personal experiences, will help you understand this access point with policy decision-makers.

GETTING CONVERSATION STARTED

- In your view, do elected officials honor what the social message describes as their “vocation to wield authority for the good of all”?
- Have you ever had personal or intentional contact with an important elected official? Did that shape your perception in any way?
- If you’ve invited an elected official to a congregation or advocacy event, what was the experience like?
- Who in your locality do you identify as having significant representational policy-making power? How might you reach out to them?
- Is there something your congregation and community are passionate about that you’d like to address with an elected official?

A REFLECTION FROM ELCA FOUNDATIONS

“The ELCA is called as a church body to discern nonpartisan means of civic engagement. As a church we affirm the importance of government, specifically democratic self-governance. In this affirmative role, this church should support public servants and elected officials in their vocation to wield authority for the good of all.” —From the ELCA social message “Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy” (p. 16)

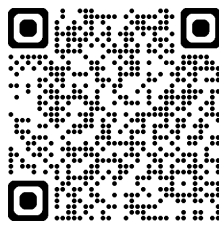
MORE INFORMATION

“[Virtual Visits](https://resources.elca.org/),” available at <https://resources.elca.org/>, offers advice on planning meetings that aren’t face-to-face.

TAKE ACTION

Be one of the thousands of people who act on their faith resourced with updates and invitations to use Action Alerts from the ELCA Advocacy Network.

Sign up at www.elca.org/advocacy/signup or use the QR code. Find us on social media @ELCAadvocacy.



View this session from ELCA Advocacy at [this link](https://resources.elca.org/) or visit www.youtube.com/@ELCAadvocacy

Content originally presented as ELCA Advocacy Summer School in 2021