










Writing an Email/Letter to Your Legislator

Government officials are increasingly attentive to the feedback and suggestions from their constituents. Writing to your legislator can be a powerful way to voice your opinions and influence policy. Here are some steps to help you write an effective letter or email:

1. Identify Your Representatives:

- First, you need to identify who your representatives are. This information is available on the RI SOS website and can be found by entering your address.
 - <https://vote.sos.ri.gov/Home/PollingPlaces?ActiveFlag=3>
- For state bills and issues, it's essential to look at your state senator and state representative, not your U.S. representative.

Your Elected Officials

 U.S. Senator Senator Sheldon Whitehouse	 U.S. Senator Senator Jack Reed	 U.S. Representative District 1 Representative Gabriel Amo
 Governor Governor Daniel J. McKee	 Lieutenant Governor Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos	 Secretary of State Secretary of State Gregg Amore
 General Treasurer General Treasurer James DiOSSa	 Attorney General Attorney General Peter F. Neronha	 Senate District 03 State Senator Samuel Zurier
 Representative District 01 State Representative Edith H. Ajello	 View your local elected officials	

2. Choose Your Format:

- Decide whether to send a traditional letter or an email. Both are effective, but emails may be faster.

3. Start with a Proper Salutation:

- Address your legislator formally, using titles like "Senator," "Representative," or "Assembly Member," followed by their last name.

4. Introduce Yourself:

- Mention your name and that you are a constituent.
- Briefly state any relevant affiliations or credentials.

5. State Your Purpose:

- Clearly indicate the issue or bill you are writing about, including bill numbers if applicable.
- Mention whether you support or oppose the legislation.

6. Explain Your Position:

- Provide concise reasons for your stance.
- Use facts, statistics, or personal anecdotes to support your argument.

7. Make It Personal:

- Explain how the issue impacts you, your family, or your community.
- Personal stories can be more impactful than abstract arguments.

8. Be Respectful and Polite:

- Even if you disagree with your legislator's views, maintain a respectful tone.

9. Ask for a Response:

- Request that your legislator share their position on the issue.
- Include your contact information for their response.

10. Close with a Thank You:

- Thank your legislator for their time and consideration.

Example:

Dear Senator/Representative [Legislator's Last Name],

My name is [Your Name], and I am a constituent from [Your City or District]. I am writing to express my strong support for/opposition to [Bill Name/Number], which concerns [brief description of the issue].

As a [Your Profession/Role], I have witnessed firsthand the impact that [specific aspect of the issue] has on [specific group or community]. For example, [provide a personal anecdote or a statistic that illustrates the importance of the issue]. This issue is of great importance to me and my community, and I believe that [Bill Name/Number] will [positive outcome if supported/negative outcome if opposed].

I urge you to [support/oppose] this bill, as it will [specific impact on constituents]. Your leadership on this issue is crucial, and I hope you will consider the perspectives of your constituents, including my own, as you make your decision.

I would appreciate it if you could share your position on this matter and any actions you plan to take. Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]