

COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS

Personal face-to-face contact, of course, is the most effective approach, so try to deal directly if possible. A telephone call is also a very productive option.

However, for most Tax Payers, the most feasible avenue of communication with our Legislators is a letter.

The following guidelines are suggested to help in writing to your legislators.

1. Use the correct salutation and the correct address. Letters to state senators should be addressed as follows:

Hon. Jeff Van Drew
Senator, 1st District
Suite 104
Cape May Court House, NJ
08210

Dear Senator VanDrew,

(609)645-0700
SenVanDrew@njleg.org

The correct format for a state assemblyman is:

Hon. Bob Andrzejczak
Assemblyman-District 1
211 Main Street, Suite 104
Cape May Court House, NJ
08210

Dear Mr. Andrzejczak,

(609) 465-0700
AsmAndrzejczak@njleg.or

Hon. Samuel L. Fiocchi
942 S. Delsea Drive
Vineland, NJ 08360

Dear Mr. Fiocchi,

(856) 457-5504
AsmFiocchi@njleg.org

The Governor should be addressed as:

The Honorable
Chris Christie
Governor of New Jersey
PO Box 001
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear Governor Christie:

(609)292-6000
www.state.nj.us/governor

2. Be sure of your facts. Make sure that you understand the particular bill or resolution in question. Often there are several differing measures pending on the same general subject. Copies of Legislation can be obtained from the internet for your information.
3. In your letter try to identify the bill both by title and subject matter. The Senators and Assemblymen consider many bills in the course of the session and cannot be expected to immediately recall them merely by their bill number.
4. Be brief, specific and to the point. Remember that your letter will be competing for time and attention with countless others. Most view points can be amply set forth in a well-thought-out one page letter. Since most legislators keep a file on

each bill, it is often best to write a letter on only one particular bill.

5. Be original. Use background notices or letters from other sources as a basis for your own letters, but don't merely copy the language. Five facts and opinions concerning the effects of a particular measure on your own municipality.

6. Don't demand or threaten. The legislator is often in the crossfire between conflicting interests and opinions. Consequently, his ultimate vote may be contrary to your opinion. Present your position logically and base it on facts. Emotional appeals do not influence a vote, nor should they.

7. Keep writing. Remember that every bill must be voted on by different groups of legislators as it moves through the process. Write to the members of the committee to which the bill is originally assigned. When the bill has had second reading and is ready for a floor vote, write to the leadership of the house as well as your own legislator. (In the Assembly- the Speaker and Majority and Minority Leaders; in the Senate- the President and the Majority and Minority Leaders.) When a bill has passed one house repeat the process as it moves through the other house. Finally, if a measure survives the legislative hurdles of both houses and is sent to the Governor, by all means, write to him outlining your views.