

# How to Talk

So Your MD Legislators Will Listen

It may only take a couple dozen phone calls, emails, or other contact from constituents to get an issue on your legislators' radar.

## Do A Little Research

Visit legislators' websites to learn their backgrounds and positions or go to <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov>.

- Sign up for their emails.
- Sign up for ACLU the ACLU of Maryland's updates <http://bit.ly/aclumdemails>.
- Know who represents you in the Maryland General Assembly and the U.S. Congress - [www.mdelect.net/](http://www.mdelect.net/)

## MEET IN PERSON

- Attend town halls meetings or voter or legislative forums. Come prepared with a question and be sure to introduce yourself after.
- During session, visit your legislators at the Maryland Capitol. Contact them in advance. The address is 100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401.
- Out of session, in their home area, legislators have more time. Set up a meeting and bring like-minded friends.



## WRITE A LETTER



Old-fashioned pen and paper can be very effective since it's increasingly rare. Go to the ACLU of Maryland web site - [www.aclu-md.org/action\\_center](http://www.aclu-md.org/action_center) for messaging or use your own words. Encourage others to write.

## MAKE A CALL



Simply pick up the phone and call your legislator's office. You may reach a staffer or leave a message. State the issue(s) and what you want them to do about it.

### Pro Tips

- Be brief. Legislators want to know what you think. Write just a paragraph or two and keep phone messages to a few sentences.
- Be firm but courteous. Use respectful language. If possible, include praise for a position the legislator has taken in the past.