### TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>DO</strong></th>
<th><strong>DON'T</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✔ Make an appointment</td>
<td>✔ Be angry</td>
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<tr>
<td>✔ Dress neatly</td>
<td>✔ Be hostile (“I’m a taxpayer!”)</td>
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<td>✔ Introduce yourself</td>
<td>✔ Threaten (“You’ll pay for this at the polls!”)</td>
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<td>✔ Stick to the subject at hand</td>
<td>✔ Be afraid to be confident</td>
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<td>✔ Be curious</td>
<td>✔ Have a lot of material (It will never be read)</td>
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<tr>
<td>✔ Acknowledge if you don’t know something</td>
<td>✔ Lose credibility (It will affect everyone who lobbies on the same subject after you)</td>
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<tr>
<td>✔ Be honest</td>
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<tr>
<td>✔ Know something about the official</td>
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<tr>
<td>✔ Be cordial to the assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>✔ Be on time - but be prepared to wait</td>
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<tr>
<td>✔ Know the bill number/name and something about it</td>
<td>✔ Most public officials are happy when their constituents visit - they’ll be friendly</td>
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<tr>
<td>✔ Call or write in a summary of the meeting</td>
<td>✔ Public officials want people to like them</td>
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<tr>
<td>✔ Thank the public official for the meeting</td>
<td>✔ You pay their salary, they work for you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔ Enjoy your visit - you are making a difference!</td>
<td>✔ Cultivate a good rapport with the assistant and staff - they can be very helpful</td>
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#### POINTS TO KNOW

- Most public officials are happy when their constituents visit - they’ll be friendly
- Public officials want people to like them
- You pay their salary, they work for you
- Cultivate a good rapport with the assistant and staff - they can be very helpful

Follow up with your legislators by writing them a WEALTH Day Thank You note, and remember to complete your WEALTH Day passport. Drop both your Passport and Thank You’s in the box to win prizes!

#### EDUCATE

- Research your topic. Do your homework. Connect with relevant organizations, like WEALTH Day sponsors.
- Public officials want authenticity. They want to hear from individuals, particularly their constituents.
- **Encourage people to get involved. Speak up!** Whether it’s letters, emails, or phone calls, get engaged!

#### ADVOCATE

- Be polite and respectful. Even if you don’t agree with your legislator, think about them as a person. They care about Kansas or they wouldn’t be serving—that’s something that we like to keep in mind.
- **Engage in a way that works for you.** Personal visits and phone calls are really impactful when you’re talking about issues that matter to you.
- If you don’t know who represents you at the Statehouse, go to openstates.org and type in your address. It will list your state representative, state senator, and congressional representation.
- **Personal letters** are more effective than emails. If legislators get five letters on a given issue you are worried about, that would be a landslide for a lot of them.

#### INTEGRATE

- Find common ground.
- When legislators return home on weekends, many of them have coffees or other public meetings. Attend these events. Local interactions are just as important as visiting the Statehouse.
- **Share your concerns and stories with your elected officials and the people in state agencies** that represent your interests. Work with WEALTH Day sponsors to identify relevant agencies.
- When your local legislator is at home, meet up with them. **Connecting personally is always the most powerful way to advance the things that we care about.**
Looking for more ways to get involved?

Become a Climate + Energy Voter Ambassador!
- Join a group of Kansans mobilizing on climate and energy issues!
- Host a Climate + Health Declaration Signing party!

Develop Leadership Skills
- Join the Kansas Environmental Leadership Network. Email kel@climateandenergy.org.

Engage and Educate on Climate Issues
- Start a conversation about WEALTH issues that concern you. Listen to other opinions.
- Volunteer to speak at your church, social group, or public climate issue event.
- Form a climate issue book club (or suggest climate titles to your current book club).

Host Educational Events
- Ask relevant organizations to hold public forums.
- Host a dinner or happy hour in your home to talk about climate issues.
- Create a climate discussion group.

Organize and Mobilize
- Attend advocacy events.
- Give testimony, write letters to the editor, and connect with your legislators on pressing issues.
- Show up and bring friends to advocacy events.

Achieve Policy Impact
- Use personal stories and experiences to explain why these bills are important to you.
- Attend press events and rallies for specific bills.

Connect with Elected Officials
- Write personal letters to your legislators about climate related issues important to you.
- Schedule meetings with them in Topeka or attend meetings they hold back at home.
- Write a thank you to them when they vote in alignment with your issues.

Register Voters
- Ask your friends and family if they’re registered.
- Send people to KSvotes.org (and encourage them to request a mail-in ballot).
- Volunteer to help register people to vote.
- Follow and support ‘Day of’ Voter Registration bills in the Legislature.

Get out the Vote
- Ask friends and family about their voting plan; follow up with them on voting day!
- Volunteer to give rides to underserved communities on election day.
- Encourage friends and family to request mail-in ballots at KSVotes.org.
- Normalize voting – talk about it on social media.
- Sign up for TurboVote; encourage peers to also.

Defend, Protect, and Expand Voting Rights
- Ask your legislators to introduce and support ‘Day of’ Voting Registration bills.
- Follow re-districting measures and voice your support or opposition to them.
- Find and support organizations involved in efforts that interest you.

For more information email takeaction@climateandenergy.org