



GENERAL PROTOCOL IN ALL COMMUNICATIONS WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS

- Be courteous and friendly.
- Be reasonable. Remember there are always two sides (or more) to any given issue. Reasonable people can hold differing opinions. Having to pick one side or the other is never easy.
- Politics is compromise. Be firm and forceful, but realistic. Don't be too critical.
- Don't try to throw your weight around or be intimidating. It doesn't work and it alienates people.
- Remember tomorrow is another day. We may lose this vote and win that one. The process is ongoing.
- Don't scold, preach, lecture or nit-pick.
- In response to a legislator's questions to you, don't bluff. If you don't know the answer, say so, and then go get the answer.
- Be a good listener. Give your elected official a meaningful opportunity to state his/her position and explain why s/he may disagree with you. You will have a better chance to address a legislator's objections to supporting arts funding if you know exactly why s/he is opposed.
- Be appreciative: of the legislator's time, schedule, and the difficult job in not being able to please everyone. And particularly of the legislator's support.
- Take the opportunity to say 'Thank you' whenever it arises.