

Finding your Citizen Voice

(... and using it for GOOD!)

Get to know your REPRESENTATIVES:

- **How to find them:**
 - <http://mapserve1.leg.state.nv.us/whoRU/>
- **Where to learn more about them:**
 - Senate: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/Legislator/A/Senate/>
 - Assembly: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/Legislator/A/Assembly/>
- **How to introduce yourself:**
 - *By email and phone:* Introduce yourself personally. Include your full name, address and phone number. Express your interests, concerns, examples and facts.
 - *In person:* Contact their attaché and request an appointment (the earlier the better in the session).
 - Keep in mind: Your representatives are people too. They are balancing a broad variety of constituents' interests, needs and positions. Be respectful, informative and truthful.

Get to know the ISSUE:

- What is the proposed legislation?
- Who is sponsoring?
- What committee is it assigned to?
- What are all the sides? Who is in favor? Who is opposed?
- What is the history and purpose of the bill?
- What is good and bad about the proposed legislation?
- What alternatives can you offer?
- What personal examples can you give to explain the impact?
- What quality research and facts can you provide?

Get to know the PROCESS:

(<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/Publications/LegManual/2015/AppC.pdf>)

- 120 day calendar (Feb. 6th through June 5th)
- Committee Hearings
- First House Passage
- Second House Passage
- Governor signature or veto

Get to know the available RESOURCES:

- Bill Tracking (up to 10 for free) <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/79th2017/Plt>
- Opinion Surveys <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/Opinions/79th2017/A/>

Get your MESSAGE out there:

- **Public Comment:**
 - Sign in favor or opposed on specific bills.
 - Keep testimony to 2-3 minutes in Committee Hearings.
 - Bring 15 hard copies of your testimony to leave on the exhibits table.
 - Submit written copy 1 day in advance (include name, address and contact information) to the email address listed on the corresponding committee page.
<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/79th2017/Committees/List>
 - Be respectful and impactful with personal stories and credible facts.
- **From the RGJ website:**
 - **Letter to the editor:** Email a letter of 160 words or less to letters@rgj.com. Include your name and the town you live in — these will be published. Also include your address and phone number for verification purposes only — these will not be published or used for any purpose beyond contacting you in regard to your letter, if needed.
 - **One View column:** Opinion columns should be about 460 words. Include a one-sentence description of yourself and a hi-res head-and-shoulders photo (a smartphone selfie works). Please email the column in the body of an email or as an attached Word or text document to columns@rgj.com.
 - If we use your submission, we will let you know when it is scheduled to appear online and in print. Submissions may be trimmed for space constraints in print.
 - **How often can you submit?** In order to give more people an opportunity to have their voices heard, only one letter per person will be accepted every 30 days. For opinion columns, only one every 60 days will be accepted; for elected officials and candidates, one every 90 days will be accepted, with none in the 30 days before the election.
 - If you have any questions about either letters or opinion columns, contact Mark Robison at mrobison@rgj.com.

Remember: Respect the People and the Process... Even when you disagree on Positions.

“Let us never forget that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us. The ultimate rulers of our democracy are not a President and senators and congressmen and government officials, but the voters of this country.” - Franklin D. Roosevelt

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