

Citizen Lobbying 101

Tip Sheet



Quick Links:

- South Dakota Legislature Website: <http://sdlegislature.gov/>
- South Dakota Legislative Session 2017 Calendar:
<http://sdlegislature.gov/docs/legsession/2017/calendar.pdf>
- South Dakota Legislature Bill List (bills posted once filed):
http://sdlegislature.gov/Legislative_Session/Bills/default.aspx?Session=2017

Quick Tips for Meetings & Written Correspondence:

- Do your homework:
 - Know your legislator's name and title;
 - Know his or her record on related or similar legislation;
 - If you're talking about specific legislation, make sure you know where the legislation is in the process and use the bill number (for example, SB 1 or HB 1001).
 - Know your issue – understand your topic and phrase your argument in your own words.
- Be prompt.
- Thank the legislator for meeting with you.
- Personalize the relationship.
- Be polite.
- Be honest.
- Facts are great – personal stories are better.
- Make your "ask."
- Remember that timing is everything.
- Try to stick to one main issue per conversation.
- Bring a "leave behind" to your meeting to give the legislator at the end of the conversation.
- Avoid sending form letters when possible.
- Never burn bridges.
- Reach out to thank legislators when they vote how you hoped they would.
- Maximum impact comes from reaching out to the legislator who represents your district.