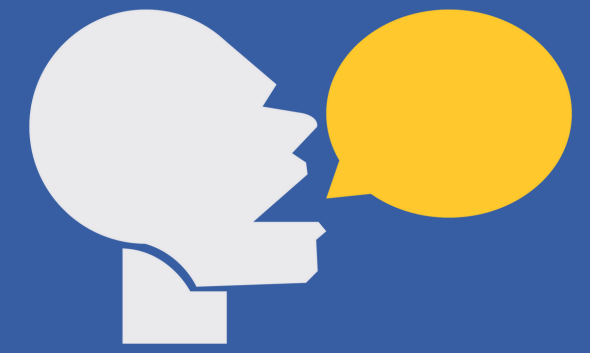


Preparing to Call an Elected Official



1. **Decide which official you should call.**

Consider which official can best respond to your concern. Does their position allow them to pursue the change you hope for? Typically, those that represent you will be most receptive to your call.

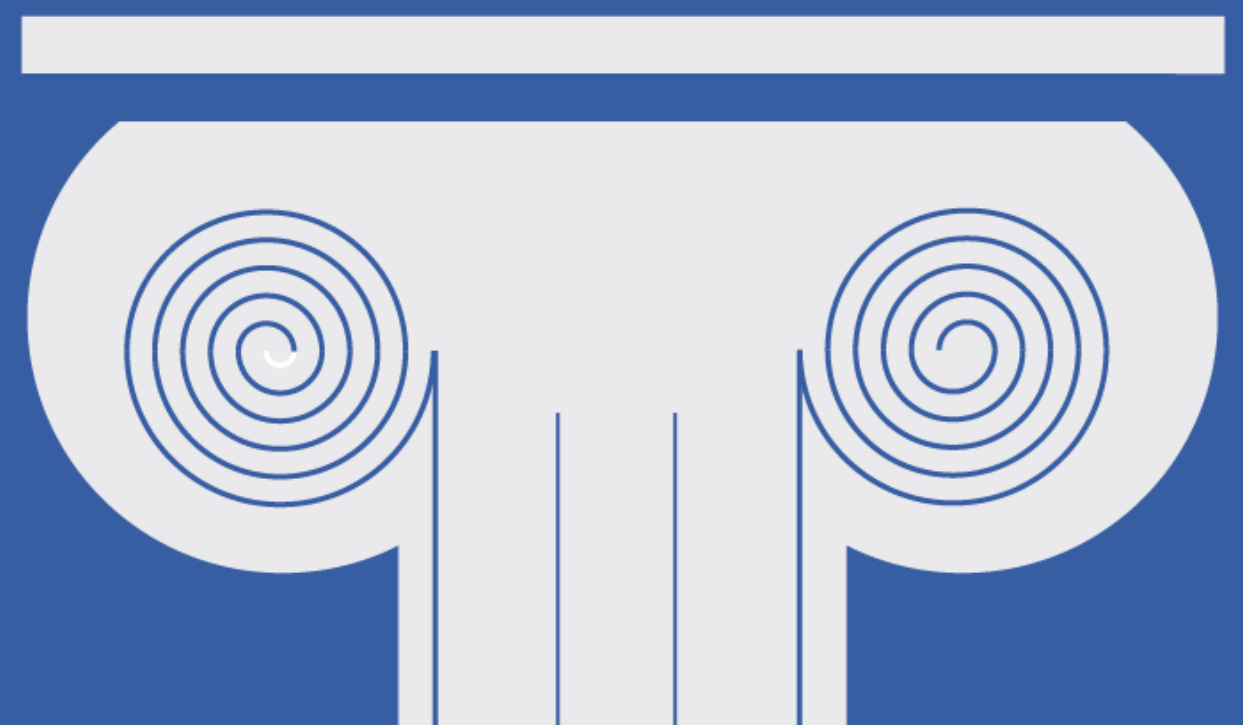
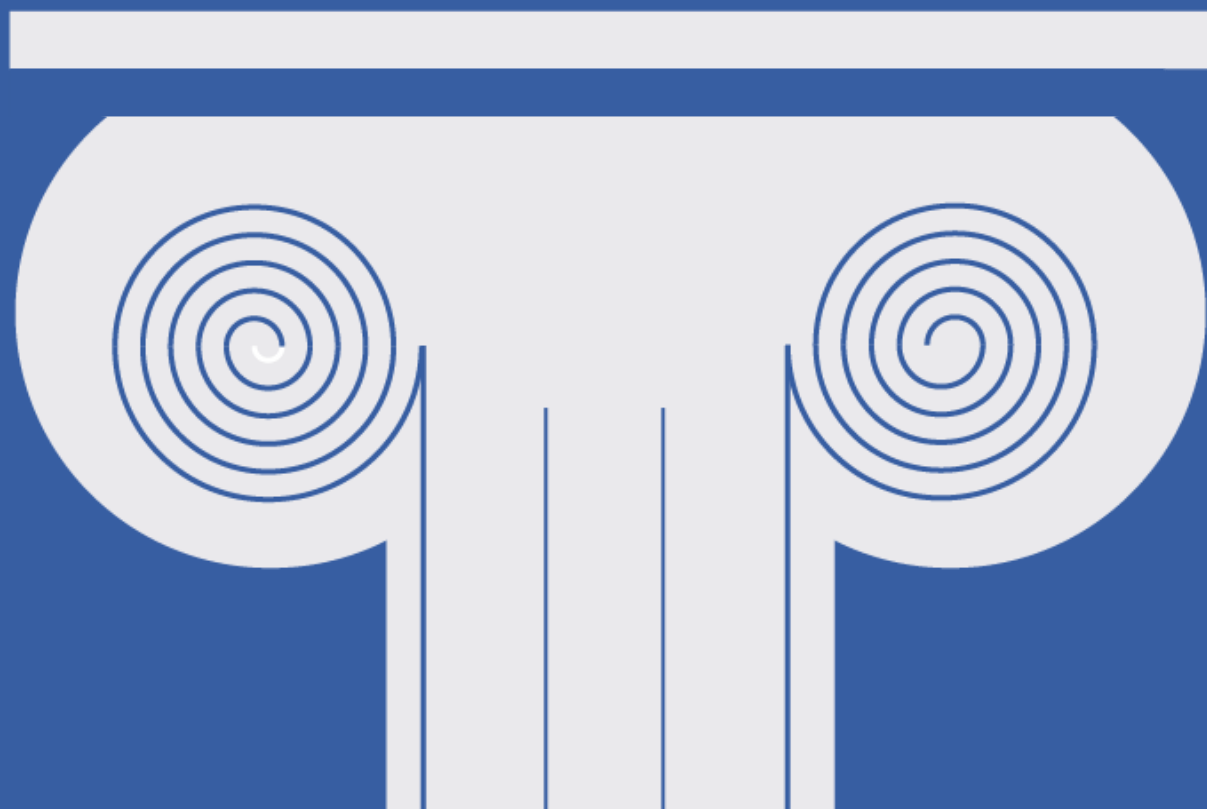
2. **Prepare for the call.**

What do you want to discuss over the phone? Write down the issue, any questions you have for the office staff, and your requests for the official.

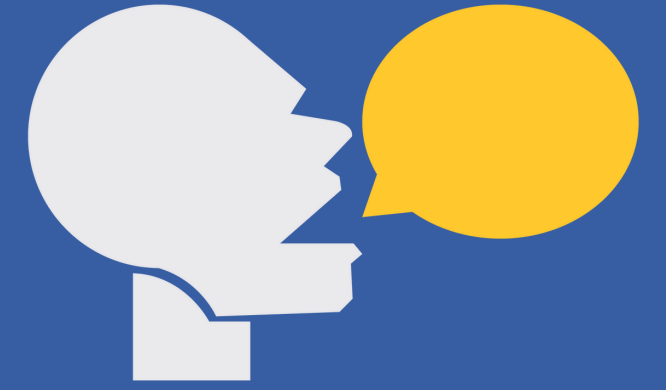
3. **Call the office during business hours.**

Introduce yourself and any community or group you are calling on behalf of. State the issue and your concerns. Close with your request for the elected official.

- Prepare a script for yourself ahead of time.
- Focus on one issue in one phone call.
- Be prepared to speak with staff or leave a message.
- If you get an answer, be open to a conversation about why you're advocating for what you want.



Calling an Elected Official



1. Research:

- What is the official's former and current position on this issue?
 - If you can't find it, feel free to ask their positions when you call.
- What is being said about this issue in the news right now?

2. Think Critically:

- Why is this issue important and relevant to this official, the official's position, and the official's constituency?
- What can this official do?

3. Prepare a Script:

- **Introduction:** Include identifying information, such as your name, where you live, and an organization or community you are calling on behalf of.
- **Background information:** Explain the issue. Reference recent events or figures.
- **Importance:** Explain the importance of the issue. Relate it to yourself, your community, and the official.
- **Make an Ask:** What can the official do? Mention specific bills or events, or propose your own solutions

