HOW TO

Make Advocacy Calls

Making a phone call to your legislator is one of the most effective ways to make your voice heard. Calls are quick, personal, and they show that constituents are paying attention to specific issues and votes.

Step 1: Know Who to Call

Call your State Representative or State Senator if the issue involves state legislation. You can find their phone numbers on the South Carolina State House website or mobile app. If you're calling about a specific bill, note the bill number (for example, "H.3160") before you call.

Step 2: Prepare Before You Call

Have these details ready:

- Your name and city or ZIP code (to confirm you're a constituent).
- The bill number or issue you're calling about.
- A clear message of what you want them to do (e.g., "vote yes on H.3160").
- One or two brief reasons why this issue matters to you or your community.

Step 3: Making the Call

When you call, you may speak to a staff member (most common) or occasionally directly to the legislator. Be polite and professional. Your goal is to make your message short, clear, and memorable. Below is a simple example script you can personalize.

> Hello, my name is [Your Name], and I live in [Your City, ZIP Code].
>
> I'm calling to ask [Senator/Representative] [Last Name] to support [or oppose] [Bill Number and Title].
>
> This bill is important because [briefly explain why. For example, "it protects reproductive rights," "it supports working families," or "it ensures access to affordable childcare"].
>
> As a constituent, I strongly urge [him/her/them] to [support/oppose] this legislation and to continue advocating for policies that promote fairness, equality, and opportunity for all South Carolinians.
>
> Thank you for your time and service.

Optional Personal Touch

You can briefly share:

A personal story
(e.g., "As a parent, I know how important affordable childcare is...").

A fact or statistic
(e.g., "Two-thirds of South Carolinians support this policy...").

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Step 4: After the Call

1. Write down the date, name of the staff member, and any response you received.
2. Share with your advocacy team or coalition partners to track outreach.
3. Follow up later if the bill moves forward or comes up for a vote.

Tips for Effective Calls

- Be respectful, even if the legislator disagrees.
- Always mention you're a constituent. That's what gives your call weight.
- Stay focused on one issue or bill per call.
- If lines are busy, leave a voicemail using the same script.
- Thank the staffer for taking your message.