

Secrets of the TXLege Part 3: Talking to Legislators

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Gun Owners of America
Fall 2020



Today's agenda:

1. Finding legislators
2. Phone calls
3. Meetings
4. Committee Hearings
5. What kind of activist are you?



Talking to Legislators



Find them

- www.TexasTribune.org/directory
- House and Senate directories (contact from TLO website, capitol.texas.gov)
- Capitol office
- District office
- Town halls, club meetings
- Staff

Effectiveness levels

5. Testify

4. Meet with legislator

3. Meet with staff

2. Call

1. Email



Email



Call



Phone call

1. Call Capitol office
2. Give your name
3. “I’m a constituent”
4. Make your ask
5. Say thank you and hang up



Phone call

“Hi, my name is [Rachel Malone], I’m a constituent of Representative [Smith], and I’m calling to ask the Representative to protect my gun rights.”



Phone call

“Please vote [yes] on [HB 100] in committee hearing tomorrow.”

OR

“I support HB 100, 200, and 300 because they protect my gun rights. Please tell the Representative to co-author those bills and help get them passed.



Meetings



Steps for a Meeting

- Call the Capitol office & ask to talk to the scheduler
 - They may refer you to the district office
- Ask the scheduler for a meeting with the legislator
 - Let them know you're a constituent
 - Tell why you want to meet ("talk about gun rights")
 - Meeting can be Zoom, phone, or in-person



When you meet

- Give a handout (look at our resources page, gunowners.org/texas)
- Tell your story — be personal
- Make a specific ask: “sign on to this bill”
- Listen for dodging
- Get the staffer’s info



Committee Hearings



Committee Hearings

Rule #1: Show up



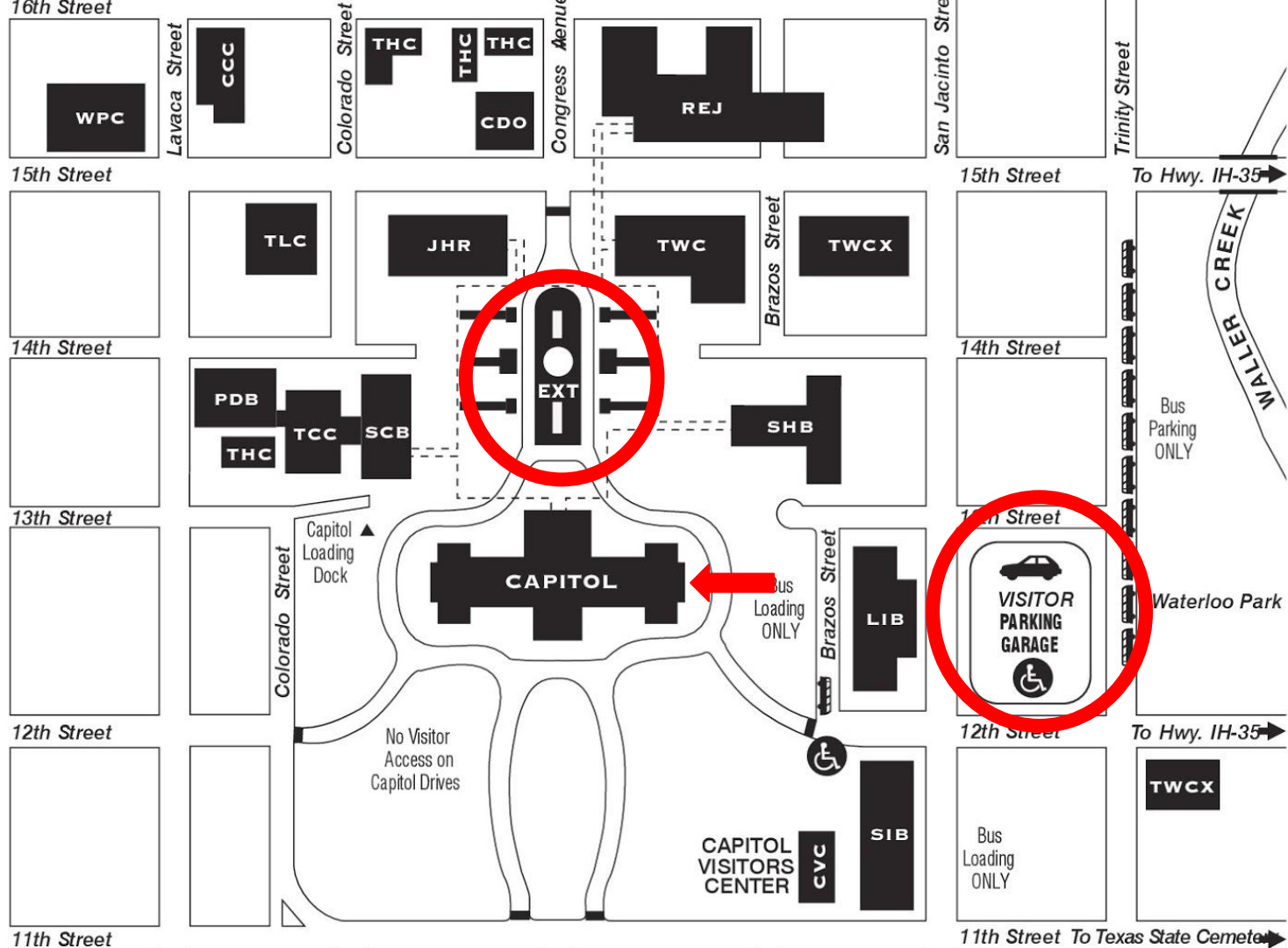
Committee Hearings

Rule #2: Be ready for anything

****especially after 2020****







**SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON
IN SCHOOLS & SCHOOL SECURITY**
WITNESS REGISTRATION CARD

SUBJECT/CHARGE#: Red Flag Proposal

TESTIMONY (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

☒ ORAL

☒ WRITTEN

☐ REGISTERING POSITION, NOT TESTIFYING

NAME (please print): Rachel Malone

STREET: _____

STATE: _____

ZIP: _____

PHONE: () _____

CITY: _____

TITLE: Texas Director
(e.g.: Executive Director, etc.)

REPRESENTING: Gun Owners of America
(e.g.: self, organization, etc.)

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I hereby certify that the above statements by me are true and accurate, and that I have listed all persons, firms, corporations, classes or groups which I represent in reference to the matters on which I am appearing, and I further certify that the testimony I give before this body will be true and accurate.

DATE: _____

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

TESTIFIED: Y / N



Texas House of Representatives
**House Witness
Registration**
CH







Waiting & Listening

- Find your people
- Be an ambassador
- Help everyone
- Expect the unexpected



Preparing Testimony



Be sure to.....

- Read the bill
- Read the agenda — *****but the order will change*****
- Listen in the hearing room

Words to say:

“Hi, my name is _____ and I am testifying
[for, against, on] [HB____ or SB ____].

I am representing [myself, or organization that
you are authorized to represent,
or self + organization].”











Delivering Testimony



Tips

- One thing
 - Know it
 - Deliver it
- Know the start & finish
- Speak into the mic
- Stop when it's over
- You are qualified



What kind of activist are you?



How can I help you make change happen?

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