Secrets of the TXLege Part 3: Talking to Legislators

Rachel Malone
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
“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***
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: ____________________ STATE: ___________ ZIP: _______

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

CALLED: ____________________
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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