

## Lobby Day Do's and Don'ts

### Do:

1. **Be on time** if you set an appointment
2. Identify yourself as a member of Texans United to Amend (TUTA). If you are speaking with YOUR Senator's or Representative's staffer, introduce yourself as a constituent and a member of TUTA.
3. **Be nice, be nice, be nice!**
4. Many TUTA members cannot be in Austin for Lobby Day, but are calling and emailing their legislators and/or visiting their district offices. Let legislators know to expect these contacts.
5. Stick to the main issues: **the corrupting influence of money in politics, the citizen outrage at the Supreme Court's *Citizens United v FEC* decision**. The only way to limit the massive influence of outside money begins with amending the Constitution. There are only two ways to **amending the Constitution: initiated in Congress (SCR 2 & HCR 21) or initiated by 2/3 of state legislatures calling for an Article V Convention (HJR 94)**.
6. Share compelling, relevant, and brief personal examples to illustrate the need for change. [e.g., large amounts of out-of-state money infused during our primary elections – Ted Cruz vs. David Dewhurst]
7. Meetings should last no more than 15 minutes.
8. Know that you don't need to be an expert. It's okay to politely say: "I don't know, but we can get back with you."
9. Ask legislators for a specific commitment: "Will you agree to **sponsor** these resolutions and/or **vote to support them** so they can be brought to the floor for a full vote?" We want to pin down those who support us, those who are on the fence and need further persuasion, and those who don't support us.
10. Ask if they have questions.
11. Be sure to thank those who support us. For those who are on the fence, tell them to expect a follow-up call in a week. For those opposed, take the high ground and simply thank them for their time.
12. Sign the guest book in their office, particularly if you are from their district.
13. Fill out the TUTA response form after leaving the legislator's office. Note possible resolution co-sponsors and/or supporters. Turn forms into Joanne Richards at the end at the Capitol Grill.
14. Follow up with a **thank you note** by email to whomever you spoke with on Lobby Day.

### Don't:

1. Don't be discourteous with any legislator or staffer.
2. Don't be argumentative; instead use facts and reason.
3. Don't waste time in these meetings. Get to the point when discussing your issues.
4. Don't let them tell you that amending the constitution is impossible. Remind them that it has been done 27 times before AND then ask them, "How many amendments have been enacted since 1950?" Six times! One of these was in 1971, establishing the right to vote for those 18 years of age or older.
5. Don't try to be an expert. If you don't know the answer to a question, say so and respond later
6. Don't let a legislator force you into an either/or situation of choosing one thing over another. (e.g., transparency vs. spending limits). Sometimes you like both options.
7. Don't let a legislator pit Republicans against Democrats; progressives against conservative, etc. This is the old divide-and-conquer strategy. We will not be sucked in. United we stand, divided we fall.
8. Don't contradict one another while in legislators' offices.
9. Don't be disappointed if you do not speak with your legislator but instead with a staffer. Staffers often know the issues better than the legislator.