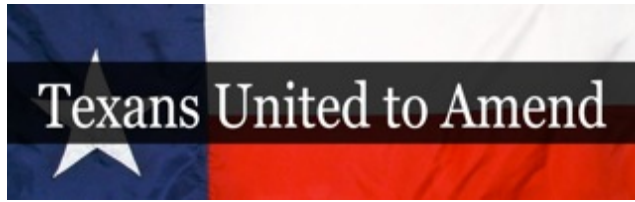


Speaking with your elected officials



- 1) Be on time if you set an appointment and have your materials ready
- 2) Be prepared to speak with a staffer instead of your representative
- 3) Identify yourself as a volunteer with Texans United to Amend. If you are speaking with your personal representative (whether it is your County Commissioner or US Senator) introduce yourself as a constituent first and TUTA member second.
- 4) Be respectful. Your goal is to get them to support your cause.
- 5) Let him/her know that other TUTA members will be contacting them about this as well.
- 6) Share compelling, relevant and brief personal examples to illustrate the need for change. (e.g. Large amounts of money coming from out of state influencing our elections.
- 7) You do not need to be an expert. It's ok to say that you don't have the answer to their question and offer to get back to them with an answer. Make sure to follow up and get their answer.
- 8) Meetings should last about 15 minutes.
- 9) Stick to the main issue:
 - 1) The Corrupting Influence of money in politics
 - 2) Citizen outrage at Supreme Court rulings such as Citizens United
 - 3) Amend the Constitution to overrule the Supreme Court
 - 4) Money is not speech and corporations do not have the rights of people
- 10) Inquire if they have questions
- 11) Ask for a specific commitment: "Will you agree to sponsor a resolution to amend or vote to support it?"
- 12) Thank them for their time. If they agreed to support especially thank them for that. If they are on the fence or disagree let them know that TUTA will continue to follow up with them.
- 13) Be sure to fill out their guest book in the office, especially if you are a constituent.
- 14) Follow up with a thank you note by email

Do NOT be discourteous or argumentative. Use facts and reason

Do NOT waste time in meetings but get to the point and stick to your issue

Do NOT try to be an expert. If you don't know the answer just say so.

Do NOT pit Republicans against Democrats or Conservatives against Liberals

Do NOT contradict other members of your group or argue among yourselves

Do NOT let them side track you or tell you you are wrong. Know your stuff as well as possible.