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Guía

Cómo escribir una carta a un político

Propósito

Escribir cartas documentadas y personales a los miembros del Parlamento/Congreso puede tener un impacto significativo en la política gubernamental.

Cómo estructurar tu carta

Incluye el remitente en tu carta

Primer párrafo:

- Incluye el tema de tu carta. Por ejemplo, "Estoy escribiendo para expresar mi preocupación / decepción (proporcionar detalles) ...".
- Si le escribes a un miembro del Congreso de diputados elegido por tu demarcación, indica que resides en la provincia por la que ha sido elegido al principio de la carta.
- Cómo empezar la carta: la intensidad de tu discurso debe entrecerse en el primer párrafo, si no en la primera frase de la carta.
- Preséntate y explica por qué estás calificado para hablar sobre este tema.

Elige tres puntos importantes para concentrarte en ellos:

- Desgrana los puntos más persuasivos que puedan hacerte ganar apoyos.
- Aborda un nuevo punto en cada párrafo.
- Escribir tres cartas cortas a varias personas es más efectivo que escribir una carta larga.
- Asegúrate de que tus datos sean precisos y creíbles.
- Admite y reconoce argumentos y evidencias opuestas.

Personaliza el problema:

- Explica cómo el problema te afecta a ti, a tu familia o a tu comunidad.
- Una carta personalizada puede ser más persuasiva y tener más impacto.

Personaliza tu relación con el receptor:

- Indica si alguna vez votaste por él/ella, si lo has llegado conocer en persona, si apoyaste su campaña electoral, etc.
- La carta puede ser más efectiva si el/la político/a se siente más cercano/a a ti.

Ten cuidado con presuponer sus puntos de vista:

- Si no estás seguro/a de los puntos de vista del político/a o partido político sobre el tema, investiga, pregunta o explica por qué debería apoyar tus puntos de vista.
- Evita hacer suposiciones sobre sus puntos de vista y comentarios que podrían interpretarse como críticos para ellos o su grupo.

Sé cortés:

- No ofendas innecesariamente. Todos respondemos mejor a la cortesía, a la amabilidad y a un enfoque agradable.
- NO ESCRIBAS EN LETRAS MAYÚSCULAS CON LA ESPERANZA DE CONVENCER A TU LECTOR. No solo es difícil de leer, sino que no es profesional.

Llamada a la acción:

- Pide que actúen sobre el tema (por ejemplo, "aumentar la financiación en el presupuesto para ..." o "comprometerse públicamente a ...").

Pide una respuesta:

- Termina la carta con una declaración alentando una respuesta (por ejemplo, "Espero su respuesta sobre este asunto").
- Escriba de nuevo si no recibes una respuesta adecuada dentro de un plazo razonable.
- Últimas palabras: repite tu discurso y agradece a tu político por tomarse el tiempo de leer tu carta.
- Deja la información de contacto (dirección de correo electrónico, nombre de la organización, etc.).
- ¡Firma tu carta!

Consejos de escritura:

- Escribe una carta corta, definitivamente no más de una página.
- Usa datos precisos, citas de miembros de la comunidad y estadísticas, pero no los uses en exceso.
- Proporciona un ejemplo de la "vida real" en tu barrio para ilustrar sus razones.
- Haz seguimiento: ¡Los políticos son gente ocupada! Si no has tenido noticias de su oficina o de uno de sus representantes en unas pocas semanas, envía un correo electrónico para agradecerles de nuevo que hayan leído tu carta. Y recuérdales que esperas que alguien responda a tu consulta cuando sea posible.

Cómo contactar**Correo electrónico y carta**

Una manera eficaz de aumentar tus posibilidades de recibir una respuesta es enviar un correo electrónico y una carta impresa por correo. Si está contactando a un Ministro, esto se recomienda especialmente. También debes enviar una copia a algún representante de la oposición, asegurándote de anotar esto en la parte de la dirección de tu carta. Informar a la oficina del Ministro que su oponente también ha recibido una copia asegurará que se priorice adecuadamente. Esto también te da la oportunidad de acercarte a la oposición si no recibes respuesta de la oficina del Ministro.

FURTHER RESOURCES

- https://www.slideshare.net/injuredw/talking-to-a-politician?qid=cc217675-ce96-4f51-abab-fc9693c72529&v=&b=&from_search=20
- <https://www.slideshare.net/bnwklr/from-moment-to-movement-and-beyond-1256515>
- https://www.education.com/magazine/article/How_Write_Letter_Politician/



Example: Letter to a politician

Mary Andrews
112 Warton Road
Gosnells WA 6008

Mr P. Abetz, MLA
PO Box 441
Gosnells WA 6110

22 January 2009

Dear Mr Abetz,

I am writing to you today as a constituent of the Southern River electorate to express my concern over physical activity and road safety issues relating particularly to local schoolchildren.

As I am sure you are aware, rates of overweight and obesity among Australian schoolchildren are already too high and are rising. The *WA Child and Adolescent Physical Activity and Nutrition Survey 2003* found that between 1985 and 2003, the prevalence of overweight and obesity amongst 7–15 year olds in WA increased from 9.3% to 23.1% in males and from 10.6% to 30.5% in females (Hands, Parker, Glasson, Brinkman, & Read, 2004). Furthermore, 42.9% of WA adults and 31% of WA children were not sufficiently active during 2007 (Wood et al., 2008; CSIRO Preventative Health National Research Flagship & University of South Australia., 2008).

While these issues are of concern throughout the state and nation, there are significant ways in which we can begin to address them in the Southern River electorate with your support.

The Walking School Bus™ is a group of primary school children who walk to school with one parent as a 'driver' and another parent at the rear of the 'bus'. The children are picked up at designated 'stops' along a planned route which is reversed on the way home. There are many examples of the Walking School Bus™ being successfully implemented and sustainable in WA schools. The bus provides a safe and active form of transport, teaches children road sense and reduces traffic congestion around schools. I seek your public commitment to introduce and support the Walking School Bus™ for Southern River schools. More information on the program and participating schools can be found at <http://www.dpi.wa.gov.au/travelsmart/14915.asp>

It has become clear that the limited existing cycle paths in the electorate you represent have become significantly degraded and are unsatisfactory in supporting existing local cyclists and encouraging residents and school children to cycle as a form of active transport. I have heard many deeply concerning stories of local children who have had near misses with cars on their way to school because of the lack of satisfactory cycle paths. I seek your commitment to funding an upgrade for the existing cycle paths in the Southern River electorate and engaging in a community consultation process to determine where additional cycle paths may be constructed so as to encourage your constituents to cycle and reduce reliance on motor transport.

I believe strongly in the importance of promoting physical activity and road safety in the local community and particularly with children. As the elected representative of the local community, I hope that you would also hold the health and safety of your constituents in the highest regard and would be open to ways of promoting physical activity and road safety in the local community so as to maximise the health, productivity and happiness of your constituents.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to discuss this further with you and look forward to receiving your reply.

Yours Sincerely,

Mary Andrews.

Sample Political Letter

Name
Address
Address
Phone

Dear XXXXXXXXX,

Thank you for the political leadership you provide for our community. As a citizen who is concerned about the Earth's climate, I value the role you play in shaping the policies that can lead to greater sustainability for our city, our nation and our world. With the right incentives, policies that are good for the environment can also be good for creating jobs, improving our economy and lessening our dependence on foreign oil.

Our organization, Citizens Climate Lobby, is proposing such a policy. It works like this: Place a steadily-increasing fee on the carbon dioxide produced by fossil fuels and return all the revenue to every household. Increasing the cost of carbon creates a strong incentive to invest in clean energy. Returning the revenue from the carbon fee would shield households from the economic impact of rising energy costs. Eventually, the annual "carbon dividend" would be \$1,500 a year for every person.

Unfortunately, our politicians in Washington are paralyzed with fear on this issue and unable to act. They fear the power and money of the big carbon lobby. If I were them, frankly, I'd be afraid, too.

That's why we need the support of respected leaders like you. Your encouragement would help our members of Congress find the resolve to take the bold action that will lead our nation into the new era of clean energy. Our volunteers are taking this message to their senators and representatives, but your voice would make all the difference.

Enclosed is our legislative proposal. I will call you in hopes that I can meet with you in your office to discuss how we can work together to enact this legislation, which would reduce greenhouse gases and bring new jobs and cleaner air to our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Name here, Citizens Climate Lobby

"I believe the American people want climate policy to be transparent, honest, and effective... I firmly believe it is not too late for Congress to consider a carbon tax as the better policy approach."

**Rex Tillerson,
ExxonMobil CEO**

"We very much believe that a straightforward graduated tax on carbon is better than the cap-and-trade."

Fred Smith, FedEx CEO

"If politicians remain at loggerheads, citizens must lead."

**Dr. James Hansen,
Physicist, Director of
NASA Goddard Institute
for Space Studies**

Letter Sample

[Date]

The Honorable [Name]

[Address]

[City], [State], [Zip Code]

Dear Senator/Representative [Name],

As your constituent and a member of the Board of Directors of Westside Family Healthcare, I am writing to urge you to vote for full funding for the Grant-In-Aid and Healthy Women, Healthy Babies programs.

Westside Family Healthcare provides high quality, affordable health care to over 28,000 Delawareans, regardless of their ability to pay. Our 6 sites and mobile health unit operate in underserved areas across the state, and many of our patients are uninsured or underinsured.

It is with the additional funding of Healthy Women, Healthy Babies that Westside is able to provide the best possible care to our patients. Despite the fact that Delaware has historically had a higher infant mortality rate and pre-term birth rate, 95% of our prenatal patients delivered babies at a healthy weight.

I again ask you to support full funding for state-supported health programs such as Grant-In-Aid and Healthy Women, Healthy Babies, should questions their funding come up in this legislative session. I also encourage you to speak to your colleagues about doing the same. A healthier Delaware benefits us all.

Please contact me to let me know your position on funding for Grant-In-Aid and Healthy Women, Healthy Babies or with any questions you might have about the health centers in your district. I can be reached at [Contact Info].

Sincerely,

Tip: Add personal touches whenever possible. For example, think about how have health centers, like Westside, have impacted you or your friends and loved ones.