

SESSION 2 OVERVIEW HOW DO I APPROACH POLICYMAKERS?

Do you want to be part of moving the needle on a policy matter? Session 2 of Advocacy Summer School can demystify the process and encourage your participation. Context from ELCA advocacy staff and Capitol Hill staff, combined with state and personal experiences, will help you understand this access point with policy decision-makers.

- **Our Policy Makers and Us**
John Johnson, ELCA Program Director, Domestic Policy
- **Five Tips for a Successful Meeting**
Tralonne Shorter, Director of Legislative Affairs, Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
- **Meeting Scheduling and Preparation**
Andrew Fuller, ELCA Program Director, Housing and Human Needs, and Taina Diaz-Reyes, ELCA Hunger Advocacy Fellow, 2020-21
- **Local Advocacy Impact**
Regina Banks, Director, Lutheran Office for Public Policy-California
- **First Meeting Concerns Overcome**
Robin McCants, Assistant to the Bishop, ELCA Southeast Michigan Synod

View this session from ELCA Vimeo channel -

<https://vimeo.com/610902143/ff03745b6b>

Series originally presented in summer 2021.

HOW DO I APPROACH POLICYMAKERS?

ADVOCACY SUMMER SCHOOL

SESSION 2 DISCUSSION STARTER

Offered by



ELCA.org/advocacy

In collaboration with



ELCA.org/PeaceNotWalls

A REFLECTION FROM ELCA FOUNDATIONS

“The ELCA is called as a church body to discern nonpartisan means of civic engagement. As a church we affirm the importance of government, specifically democratic self-governance. In this affirmative role, this church should support public servants and elected officials in their vocation to wield authority for the good of all.” —From the ELCA social message “Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy” (p. 16)

To help dig into the text of this social message, find a study guide and Spanish translation at www.ELCA.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages/Government

GETTING CONVERSATION STARTED

- In your view, do elected officials honor what the social message describes as their “vocation to wield authority for the good of all”?
- Have you ever had personal or intentional contact with an important elected official? Did that shape your perception in any way?
- If you’ve invited an elected official to a congregation or advocacy event, or if you’ve held a meeting with a policy maker, what was the experience like?
- In addition to federal lawmakers, who in your locality do you identify as having significant representational policy-making power? How might you reach out to them?
- Is there something your congregation and community are passionate about that you’d like to address with an elected official?

MORE INFORMATION

Texas Impact, a state public policy office in the ELCA Advocacy Network, presents the video “Faithful Advocacy: Betsy Calls Her Legislator,” in which a constituent gives a policy-maker a first try. The video also offers general tips on approaching lawmakers. Visit bit.ly/TexasImpactFaithfulAdvocacyYouTubePlaylist.

“Virtual Visits,” available at www.ELCA.org/advocacy/resources, offers advice on planning meetings that aren’t face-to-face.

TAKE ACTION

Be one of the thousands of people who act on their faith resourced with updates and invitations to use Action Alerts from the ELCA Advocacy Network. Sign up at www.elca.org/advocacy/signup. Find us on social media @ELCAadvocacy.