

Building Year-Round Relationships with Your Legislators – Your Checklist

WHO: Designate the team – elected officials and/or staff members?

WHAT: The team should consider the following steps:

1. Develop unified priorities.
 - *What 3-4 priorities should be on your legislative agenda?*
 - *How do they fit into our 4-part legislative prism? (For a refresher, look at our website in the ULCT-UAC Legislative Guide.)*
2. Develop a unified message around each priority.
 - *Why are the priorities a priority? What is the message that your team will convey to legislators about each priority?*
3. Identify 2-3 activities to invite your legislators to do during the off-season.
 - *Invite them for a pre-session breakfast or lunch and think about what you can offer your legislators to experience your city. Will they go on ride-alongs, a behind-the-scenes tour of public works, attend the rodeo?*
4. Thank your legislator and highlight their involvement in your community and in the Legislature.
 - *Can you feature their activities in your city in newsletter highlights, Mayor's messages, social media feeds? Will you send thank you emails when they stand up for local control elsewhere?*
5. Challenge yourselves to make some kind of contact with your legislators at least once per month for the next 9 months. Visit them on the Hill during interim or the session if possible.

WHEN: Now! Get started now so that you can map out the next 9 months. Also, remember that this is an election year – all of your representatives and many of your senators are candidates now. Report back to us on your strategy, including what's working and what's not, when we reconvene at Annual in September.

WHY? Your legislators need to know what's going on in your community! By establishing a year-round relationship with them, you can tell them about your priorities, ask them about theirs, and discuss the bills they plan on running in the next session. They will have context when you contact them about their own bills, and when you want to talk with them about bills other legislators are sponsoring.