

Tips on Phoning Your Texas State Legislators

To find your state legislator's phone number, you can use the online state legislature directory at <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/fyi/fyi.htm> or call the state's switchboard at 512-463-4630 and ask for your Senator and / or Representative's office.

Keep in mind that most state legislatures are only in session part-time, so to get the number for your legislator's district office. Telephone calls are often taken by a staff member and not the actual legislative member. Ask to speak with the aide who handles the issue to which you wish to comment. If they are not available, you may also leave a message. If you speak with someone other than your legislator, take down their name and title.

Upon reaching your state legislator on the phone, it's easiest to follow the four basic steps:

IDENTIFY yourself by name and the organization (if any) that you represent or the town from which you are calling.

EXPLAIN why you are calling: "I am calling to support / oppose HB ____ / SB ____." Be polite and concise. Creating 1 or 2 talking points will focus the content of your message. Too much information may confuse your message. Ask your legislator his / her position on this issue. Don't assume that your legislator has prior knowledge of your issue. Be calm, respectful, and be prepared to educate, use local examples to accentuate your point.

REQUEST a written response to your phone call if you did not speak to your legislative member. If the legislator requires further information, provide it as soon as possible.

THANK the person who took the phone call for their time and consideration.