

## Tips for Calling Your Elected Official

Calling your elected official can be a very effective way to communicate your position on an issue, especially when time is of the essence. Keep in mind that your telephone call may be taken by a staff member, not the elected official. Public officials often rely extensively on their staff, who usually are very knowledgeable about issues and influential in setting priorities. Below is a sample script for making your call:

- 1) Identify yourself as a constituent by giving your name and where you live.
- 2) Identify why you are calling and ask to speak to the legislator or an aide that handles that issue. For example, "I am calling because I am opposed to Senate Bill 123, which would increase the sales tax. Can I speak to the legislator or to an aide that handles that issue?"
- 3) Ask what your legislator's position is on the issue.
- 4) Tell the aide you would like to leave a brief message and reiterate your position on the legislation in your message such as: "Please tell Senator (Name) that I oppose Senate Bill 123, to increase the sales tax."
- 5) Leave your name and home address so that your legislator can respond to you.
- 6) Consider sending a follow-up note to the legislator or staff member with whom you spoke, emphasizing your position and your appreciation for his/her attention to the matter.