

Communicating with Elected Officials

- 1) **Don't feel bad if you don't talk with THE elected official.**
Aides are top-notch. They write the legislation; they make the agency contacts; and they probably have deeper knowledge of your subject (but don't assume this, especially with state legislators).
- 2) **Establish a relationship** with your elected officials and the aides who are responsible for your county.
- 3) **Visit with them.**
Go to Office Hours!
Visit their offices when you're in town. Invite them to visit you when they are in your town.
- 4) **Tout your successes.** Give them a call. Send a newspaper clipping.
- 5) **Invite them to events.** (Even if the elected official can't attend, he/she may send one of their representatives.)
Legislators like cameras, reporters and microphones. They like their names on agendas. They like to be introduced to people.
- 6) Remember, **elected officials can help** with issues regarding the government.
- 7) If they have questions or want additional information, provide it in a timely manner (**get back to them immediately if possible**).
- 8) **Have others talk** about how important your issue is to them.
- 9) Remember County Board members are elected officials too.

**Establish a relationship. Be available. Be realistic.
Be helpful.**