

# ADVOCATING WITH YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS



Making A Visit

## IDENTIFY YOUR ELECTED OFFICIAL

You have a member of the State Assembly and State Senate that represent you.

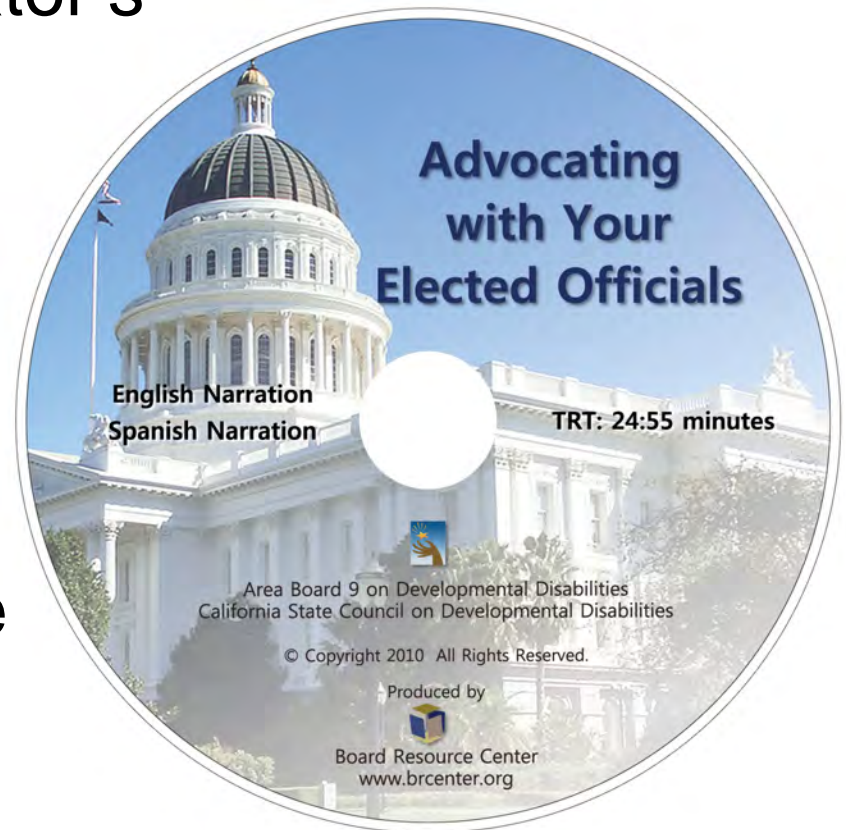
1. Find their names on the following website.

 <http://192.234.213.69/Imapsearch/framepage.asp>  
(type your address and zip code)

2. Locate their names on the **Advocating With Your Elected Officials** website “CA Legislators” section.

## GETTING READY

1. Watch “*Advocating with Your Elected Officials*” video.
2. Phone or email your legislator’s district or Capitol office to request a meeting.
3. Describe the reason for your visit.
4. Tell them how many people will be with you.
5. Ask for only 15–20 minutes.



# GETTING READY

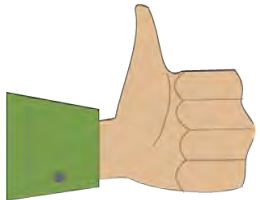
1. If going as a group, have no more than 4 people.
2. Assign people tasks:
  - Spokesperson
  - Note taker
3. Make sure everyone understands the issue and what will be shared.
4. Practice what you will say.
5. Bring your Worksheet.

The image shows a 'Tear Off Work Sheet' form. It has a dashed line on the left side for tearing. The form is divided into two main sections:

- (1) Your Elected Officials**
  - Name \_\_\_\_\_
  - Contact Info \_\_\_\_\_
  - Staff member \_\_\_\_\_
  - Contact info \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) Your Issues**
  - What do you support/oppose? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Bill number and author \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_ and focused) \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_ tion) \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_

# YOUR VISIT

1. Be on time and stay on topic.
2. Be flexible – you may meet with a legislator’s staff member, if the legislator is not available.
3. Take notes on questions or suggestions.
4. Talk about how the issue affects you.



## TIPS:

- If you are a person receiving services or a family member – share experiences about how it affects you.
- If you represent an organization – bring materials and a business card to share.

## AFTER YOUR VISIT

1. Follow-up on anything you promised to do.
2. Keep track of your issue and how your legislator votes.
3. Send a thank-you note.
4. Build a relationship – keep in regular contact.



# TIPS

- ✓ Be patient and polite.
- ✓ Dress and speak professionally.
- ✓ Be brief and focused.
- ✓ Be flexible.

