



# Golden Rules for Grassroots Involvement

*While the MML Board of Directors and staff work continually to promote the interests of municipalities to both state and federal legislators, the most effective legislative communications come from **YOU**, the elected official, speaking with a united voice.*

## 1 Stay Informed

The League's Capitol Reports and Alerts highlight important city-related bills as they move through the legislative process.

## 2 Put Someone In Charge

Make sure one staff person is responsible for immediate review of the Capitol Report and any Legislative Alerts, and for initiating a timely response by your city.

## 3 Get Personally Acquainted

Make it your business to become personally acquainted with your senator and representative outside of the legislative session. Invite them to community functions and ribbon-cutting events.

## 4 Express Yourself

Thoughtful, factually persuasive contacts can change legislators' minds and cause them to review their judgments.

Although a telephone call, email or a letter can be very effective, personal face-to-face contact is the most effective approach.

## 5 Communicate Carefully & Thoughtfully

Each letter or email you write should address only one bill and should reference the bill number on a separate line at the top of the page. Otherwise, your information may get lost in the system.

Be brief, specific and to the point.

## 6 Keep League Staff Informed

Always send copies of your letters or emails to the League. The League's legislative staff reads your letters and incorporates your arguments and local circumstances into League testimony. The staff members also cite your letters when they talk with your legislators.

## 7 Recognize Their Challenges

There may be times when you think your legislators are on the wrong track, but they may have facts that are not available to you. Try to understand their problems, outlook and objectives.

## 8 Say Thanks

Remember to thank legislators regularly and publicly for their work, support and votes. Never discount the importance of a thank you.

## 9 Do Unto Others...

Approach legislators the way you, as a city official, want to be approached by your constituents – with courtesy and respect.