

# What's Next?

Advocacy - Your Voice to Educate for Change

# What is advocacy?

- ▶ **Advocacy is defined** as any action that speaks in favor of, recommends, argues for a cause, supports or defends, or pleads on behalf of others.

# How do you tell them?

How you communicate is as important as what you communicate. Your method of communication may often determine whether you get what you want...

Remember...

*“You get more flies with honey than with vinegar.”*

# Did you know when you speak ...

- ▶ People listen the following way -
  - ▶ 7% is the words you use
  - ▶ 38% is verbal - the sounds you makes
    - ▶ pitch
    - ▶ volume
    - ▶ Speed
    - ▶ Tone
  - ▶ 55% is non-verbal -
    - ▶ body language
    - ▶ appearance
    - ▶ facial expressions

# How do I say it?

## **Assertive Communication means you:**

- ▶ Start positive, stay on topic; be consistent, brief and use a clear and reasonable tone of voice
- ▶ make sure the other person understands what you've said - your point of view is a clear, factual, relevant first hand story
- ▶ ask for specific information when you don't understand
- ▶ 'keep your cool'; put your best self forward
- ▶ Be willing to listen to another point of view, even if you don't agree with it; agree to disagree

## **Aggressive Communication means you:**

- ▶ shout or yell to get your point across
- ▶ use verbal or written abuse, swearing, or threats to get your point across
- ▶ don't use anecdotal stories that you have heard second or third hand.
- ▶ interrupt the other person
- ▶ unwilling to listen to the other person

# How to find and talk to your legislators individually

- ▶ If you can - Google them
- ▶ WGCDD Website: <https://wgccd.wyo.gov/legislative-work>
- ▶ Link by your address:  
<http://redistricting.state.wy.us/planviewer/#6.63/43.033/-107.553>
- ▶ State of Wyoming Website [www.wyo.gov](http://www.wyo.gov)
  - ▶ Legislature tab
    - ▶ This has all information including contacts, committee, schedules, bills
    - ▶ You can email or call your representative - some may be willing to meet in person, but anticipate some may not.

# Who do I talk to?

- ▶ This legislative session is a bit different - so how can I talk to the legislators or during public comment on a committee/session?
- ▶ All floor sessions and committee meetings will be held virtually and can be viewed on the Legislature's [YouTube channel](#).
- ▶ Those wishing to testify during a standing committee meeting can register to enter the Zoom meeting for each committee by clicking the “testify” button provided on the Legislature’s calendar page at [www.wyoleg.gov](http://www.wyoleg.gov).
- ▶ People wishing to submit written materials to a committee are asked to e-mail the completed [committee handout form](#) and your documents to each member of the committee and also to [legdocs@wyoleg.gov](mailto:legdocs@wyoleg.gov). In your e-mail, please include the committee name, meeting date, document author and document provider. Remember these documents become public record.

# Remember - your best tools for advocating are...

- ▶ Your voice - be strong, firm and consistent
- ▶ Your desires - present the facts and know what the ideal outcome could be
- ▶ Your knowledge of the situation - use a common voice





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