

Lobby your local state elected officials to get support for Action Civics related policies



- **Identify** relevant local decision-makers who can impact the issue you care about (e.g. assemblyperson, mayor, school district superintendent)
- **Get in touch** by calling them directly, arranging a face-to-face meeting, or sending a letter or email
- **Share** your research, argument, and proposed solution to convince them to support your position and take action to affect the issue

Why you should lobby for Action Civics

Lobbying your local state elected officials is an important way to advance Action Civics. Lobbying conveys a deeper level of interest and investment in your policy objective than restricting your participation to voting during election season. Lobbying also provides an opportunity to build a relationship with not only the elected official but also with the staff whose work influences the official on a range of issues, potentially including civics education and Action Civics.

To support your preparation for lobbying your elected officials, we have assembled a template. What follows below is a draft of a letter that can be edited and sent to your local state elected officials. Note, it can also be adapted to be a script if you are making a phone call or meeting in-person.

Please share your letter or script on social media using the hashtag #beyondtheballot and email it to us at: beyondtheballot@generationcitizen.org.

Lobbying template

If an email, subject line: A critical time to revive civics education in [*your state*] with Action Civics

[*Decision-maker's name*
Decision-makers' office address]

[*Date*]

Dear [*decision-maker*],

I am writing to elevate the critical need for civics education in [*your state*] and to ask for your support for legislation that supports it.

America has a civics problem. Recent data shows that only 23% of eighth graders nationwide are proficient in civics. Worse, young people nationwide are receiving unequal civic learning opportunities: students in low-income schools, when compared with just average socioeconomic

status schools, are half as likely to study how laws are made, and 30% less likely to report having experiences with debates or panel discussions in social studies classes.

Effective civics education is needed to re-engage young people in the local political system and strengthen our democracy today, and for the future. Action Civics should be mandated for all students across *[your state]*. Action Civics is a student-centered, experiential practice in which young people learn about the political process by taking action on specific issues in their communities. In Action Civics, students typically follow a process of community examination, issue identification, research, strategizing, taking action, and reflection. Comprised of proven practices for civic learning, Action Civics fosters the civic knowledge, skills, and motivation in students that is necessary for lifelong civic participation.

In *[your state]* there is only *[number of semesters or credits of civics required in your state. (See [here](#) for details about your state)]* required in schools and the focus is primarily on civic knowledge, not on civic skills. I urge you to *[introduce/ support]* legislation *[if there is current legislation, include the bill name]* that would ensure that every student in *[your state]* has an effective Action Civics education and that sufficient resources are made available for the implementation of such a requirement.

Educating for citizenship is a foundational responsibility of American public schools. Yet there are insufficient requirements and resources for civics education in *[your state]*. This is a vital time for a renewed commitment to, and investment in, civics education. I hope that you will make this commitment.

Sincerely,

[Your name

Your address

Your email address

Your phone number]

Information about policies that support Action Civics:

- [Generation Citizen's Policy and Advocacy Agenda](#)