

Before You Contact Your Legislator

Before You Call

Before you telephone or visit a legislator, take a few minutes to organize your thoughts and prepare yourself for questions that may be asked.

Preparation will make your discussion more organized and productive. As a result, you will make a positive impression and enhance the credibility of University of Missouri Extension. Following are some questions to ask yourself and answer in advance. (Sample answers are supplied; you may localize to fit your situation.) Although your conversation will not follow this example exactly, being prepared to make these points will help guide your discussion.

Who am I? (My name is)

Whom do I represent? (I represent XXX County as a county extension council member, 4-H volunteer, etc.)

What is the issue or opportunity? (March 15 is the annual University of Missouri Legislative Day. Members of the campus alumni association, county extension councils and other supporters are taking a few moments to visit with their legislators and thank them for their support. I would like to schedule an appointment to visit with you that day between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m.; what time would work best for you?)

When You Meet

What strategy am I pursuing? (We are here to ask you and your colleagues in the General Assembly to support the Governor's recommendation for the University of Missouri budget.)

What will this do for the state? (Maintaining funding for the University of Missouri and Extension will help the state economically and improve people's lives. For example, (SHARE a PERSONAL STORY OR A PROGRAM IMPACT).)

How are the state's resources being leveraged? (University of Missouri Extension programs are provided as a partnership of local, state and federal government. We also partner with grant and contract-funding agencies to make allocated dollars do more and stretch farther.)

What's the bottom line? (The residents of District X depend on University of Missouri Extension programs to improve their lives, and they appreciate your support.)

Close: (Thank you for your time. Whenever you are in XXX City or County, I'd be happy to show you University of Missouri Extension programs in action for the people of District X.)

