

# 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 and whom do I represent?

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I represent the residents of \_\_\_\_\_ County as a county extension council member, 4-H volunteer, etc.

### What is the issue or opportunity?

The annual University of Missouri Legislative Day is coming up on \_\_\_\_\_ (date). Members of the campus alumni associations, 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?

### What strategy am I pursuing?

We are here to ask you and your colleagues in the General Assembly to support University of Missouri's core operating budget. This funding is vital to maintaining research-based extension programs at the local level in your district's communities.

## When You Meet

### What will this do for the state?

Maintaining funding for the University of Missouri and Extension will help create and retain jobs for Missourians 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 \_\_\_\_ depend on University of Missouri Extension programs to create jobs, add public value to communities and improve the quality of life. They appreciate your support.

### Close

Thank you for your time. Whenever you are in \_\_\_\_\_ City or County, I'd be happy to show you University of Missouri Extension programs in action for the people of your district.