

*Welcome!*

Lunch & Learn:  
Advocacy 101



**FAITH**  
**ACTION**  
**NETWORK**  
*A Partnership for the Common Good*



United  
Women  
in Faith



United  
Women  
in Faith

## Our Vision

We are a powerful, fearless force driven by God's love and united in sisterhood. With a focus on women, children and youth, we act for justice and transform communities.

...our goal is not to bear witness simply to harms but also to God's love by acting boldly to change those harms.



## Mission

Faith Action Network is a statewide multifaith partnership striving for just, compassionate, and sustainable communities through relationship-building, advocacy and courageous public action.

# Agenda

- Why Advocacy?
- How Advocacy?
- Create a Compelling Message
- Involve your Faith Community in Advocacy



I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

(John 13: 34-35)

Seek justice.  
Help the  
oppressed.  
Defend the cause  
of orphans. Fight  
for the rights of  
widows.

(Isaiah 1:17)

As United Methodists, we understand our call to transform the world involves personal, social and civic righteousness.

The relationships we form in our communities, often through our direct service and mercy ministries, lead us to be advocates for justice. We cannot remain silent when we witness our neighbors impacted by broken social, economic and political systems that result in poverty, conflict, and oppression. (UMC Church & Society website)

# What do we gain through advocacy?

- Establish rights and protections
- Tax and allocate funding
- Create programs
- Develop rules and regulations

2018 WA Voting Rights Acts promoted more equal representation by allowing district-based elections or other alternative voting systems to best suit individual communities.



In 2023, state money voted to replace expired pandemic food benefits to fund food banks, senior meals, and a fruit and vegetable incentive program.





\$400 million for the Housing Trust Fund to build and preserve permanently affordable homes. Several faith communities have received financial support for low-income housing projects from this Fund.



Authorized a cold case unit for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & People in Washington.



*Addressing Climate Change and Resiliency* legislation improves the state's climate response by updating its comprehensive planning framework.

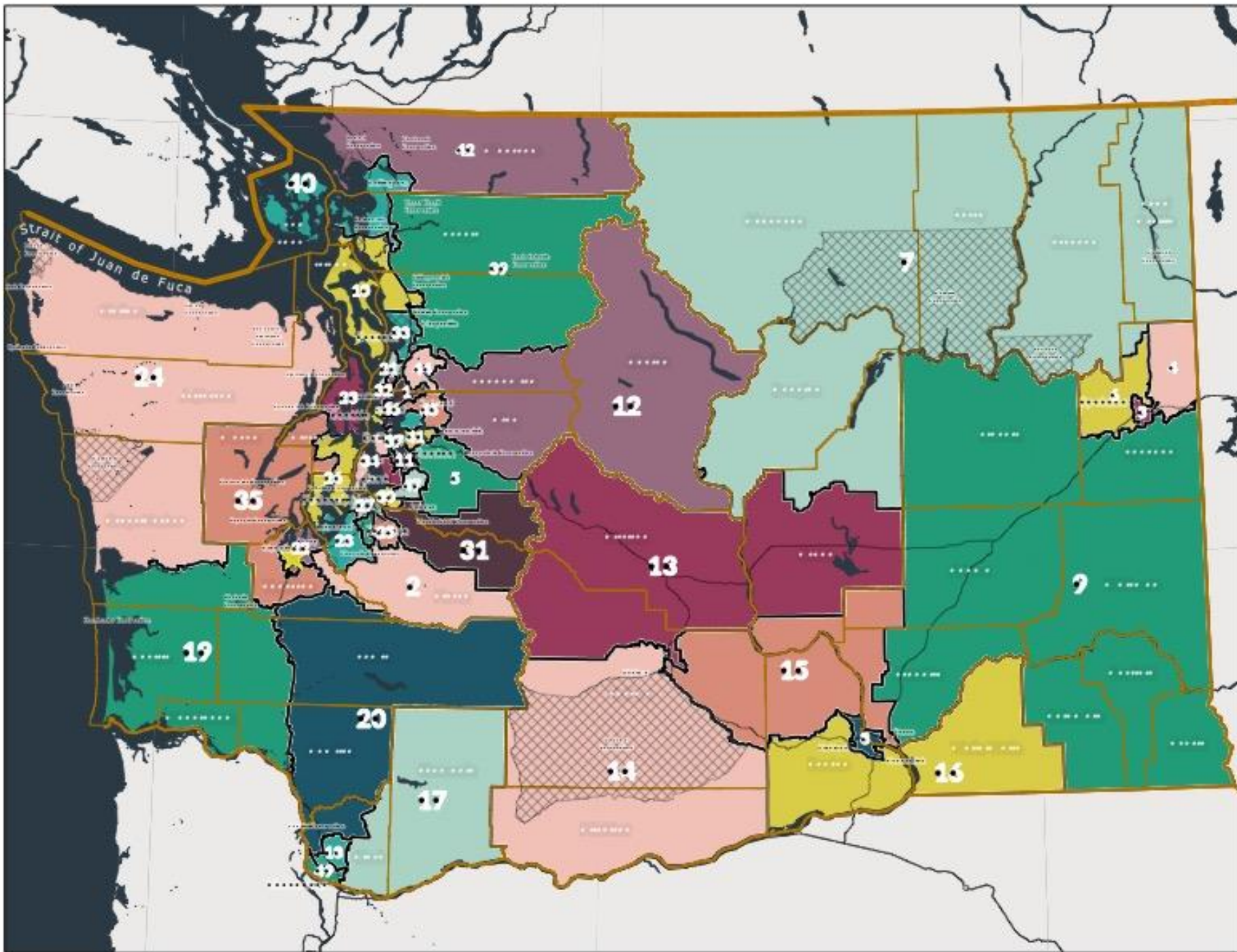




"Experts can be hired. Real people, with real stories, cannot." (Nancy Amidei)

According to Earth Ministry, 10-15 calls or letters are enough to get the attention of a legislator.

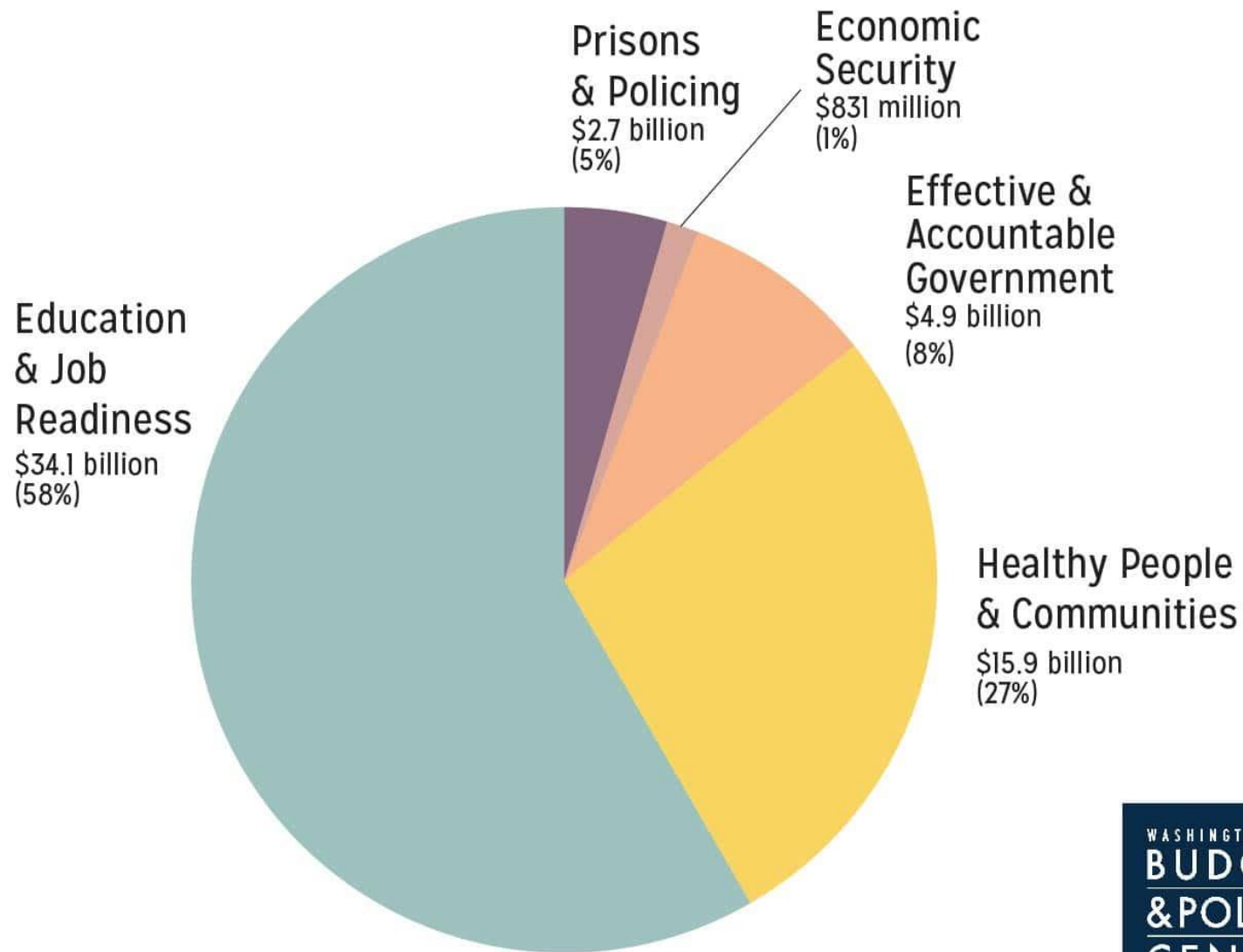




<https://www.redistricting.wa.gov/district-maps-handouts>

# State budget reflects lawmakers' values

Budget investments by funding area, 2021-23 operating budget, enacted



[https://budgetandpolicy.org/resources-tools/2020/12/2020\\_12\\_23\\_Gov-proposed-21-23\\_PI-value-pie-chart\\_updated-language.jpg](https://budgetandpolicy.org/resources-tools/2020/12/2020_12_23_Gov-proposed-21-23_PI-value-pie-chart_updated-language.jpg)

# Multiple Opportunities to Advocate

- when giving our legislators IDEAS for BILLS
- when a bill is assigned to or discussed in a POLICY COMMITTEE
- when a bill is assigned to or discussed in a FISCAL COMMITTEE
- when a bill is discussed in the FULL HOUSE and FULL SENATE
- when a bill goes to the GOVERNOR or PRESIDENT



Civic Engagement Project -  
Nancy Amidei

*LEARN ABOUT BILLS THAT MATTER TO YOU...*

# PRIORITY AREAS OF ADVOCACY FOR FAN

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In each category of our legislative agenda, we seek to advocate for and implement systems and policies that advance **racial, gender and religious equity**.



- PROMOTE ECONOMIC JUSTICE
- PROTECT AND EXPAND THE SOCIAL SAFETY NET
- EXPAND ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, APPROPRIATE HEALTH CARE
- REFORM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
- INCREASE GUN RESPONSIBILITY and PUBLIC SAFETY
- PROVIDE SAFE, AFFORDABLE HOUSING
- ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
- SUPPORT IMMIGRANT and REFUGEE RIGHTS



# UMC General Board of Church & Society

<https://www.umcjustice.org/>

## Our **FIVE PRIORITIES**

Church and Society lives out the calling to work toward personal and social holiness through five program priorities, all grounded in racial justice.



**POVERTY**



**CLIMATE**



**HEALTH**



**PEACE**



**CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS**



# UWF Advocacy Priorities

## Our Action

United Women in Faith works for justice through compassionate service and advocacy to change unfair policies and systems that harm women, children and youth—from racial and gender injustice to economic inequality, climate issues and more.

Every four years we identify a specific focus for our advocacy in addition to our ongoing work for gender and racial justice and for oppressed and dispossessed communities, with special attention to the needs of women, children and youth. Our current justice campaigns are **Just Energy 4 All** and **Ending Mass Incarceration and Criminalization of Communities of Color**.



# IDENTIFY & LEARN ABOUT YOUR LEGISLATORS

- Find out which district you live in and who represents you


<https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member>

<https://fanwa.org/advocacy/advocacy-toolkit/learn-the-basics/>

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/>

- Read short biography, list of committees they're on and bills they are sponsoring at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

leg.wa.gov/house/representatives/Pages/default.aspx

 Home Page	<b>Representative Jessica Bateman (D)</b> 22nd Legislative District Email Details	<b>Olympia Office</b> 317 John L. O'Brien Building PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504 (360) 786-7992	<b>Committees</b> Health Care & Wellness (Vice Chair) Capital Budget Housing
 Home Page	<b>Representative April Berg (D)</b> 44th Legislative District Email Details	<b>Olympia Office</b> 132C Legislative Building PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504 (360) 786-7892	<b>Committees</b> Finance (Chair) Appropriations Local Government

# WAYS TO ADVOCATE

In-person/  
Zoom

Online:  
Emails  
Bill comment form

Phone

Persuasion via  
media

Sign pro/con  
on bills in  
Committee



*"We speak as faith community leaders who believe that the moral compass of our nation is moving in a troubling direction...."*



# IN PERSON/ZOOM

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- Visit with Legislators or their Staff. Visits during recess offer more time to get to know your legislator
- Attend a Town Hall.
- Focus on one or two issues that are meaningful for you or your community
- FAN Toolkit has tips

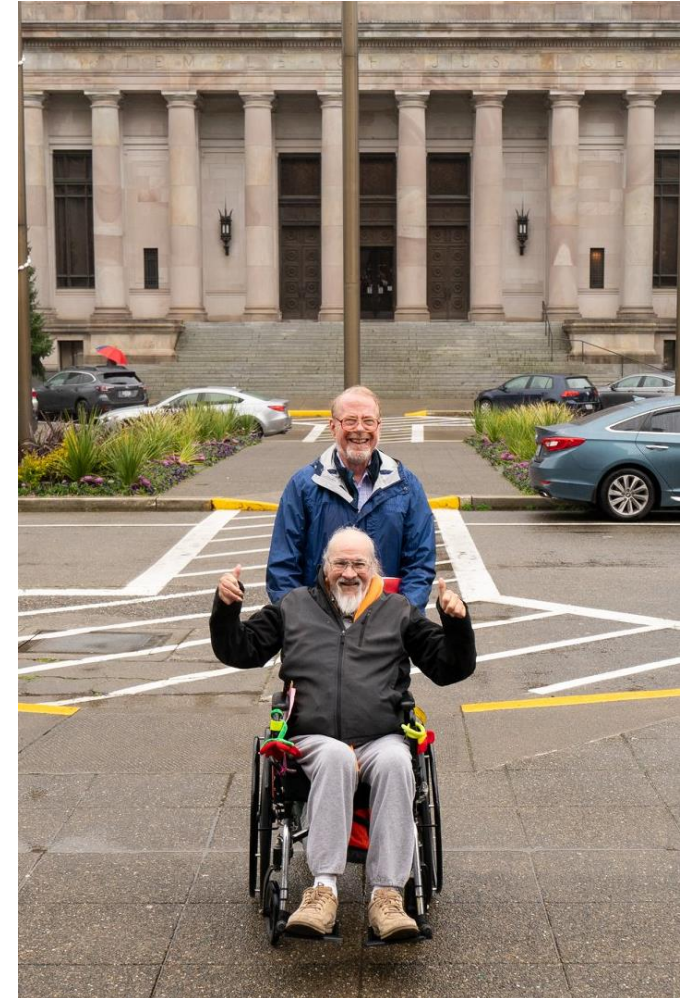
**Save the dates:**

**Thursday Feb 8, 2024, 9am-3pm**

**Interfaith Advocacy Day in Olympia**

**Saturday January 27, 9am-3pm**

**Eastern Washington Legislative Conference**





# CALL

- Call directly. Phone number on WA legislative website → Member Info/Rosters.  
U.S. Capitol Switchboard: 202.224.3121  
Ask for staff aide who deals with your issue.
- Call on the WA legislative hotline: 1.800.562.6000
  - Provide one message to all three of your representatives and the governor all at the same time.
  - With interpreter services. (TTY for hearing impaired: 1-800-635-9993)
  - During legislative session, open M-F 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.



## CONTACT the MEDIA

Letters to the editor or coverage of a related event you are holding can add pressure



# ONLINE

Email from the comfort of your armchair!

- Directly: FIRST NAME.LAST NAME@LEG.WA.GOV  
e.g., [laurie.dolan@leg.wa.gov](mailto:laurie.dolan@leg.wa.gov)
- Member email forms: Navigate to <http://leg.wa.gov> →  
Contact your legislators
- Sign on to and personalize letters by FAN, UMC Church & Society, & UWF



# Get HELP from Legislative Information Center: <https://leg.wa.gov/>



- Legislature Home**
- House of Representatives
- Senate
- Find Your District
- Laws & Agency Rules
- Bill Information
- Agendas, Schedules, & Calendars
- Legislative Committees
- Coming to the Legislature
- Civic Education
- Legislative Agencies
- Legislative Information Center
- Email Updates (GovDelivery)

Legislature Home

During 2022, in response to COVID-19, the House and Senate have made operational changes to adhere to public health guidance. Please go to the [House Covid-19 Operations](#) and [Senate Covid-19 Operations](#) plans for more details. All proceedings can be viewed on TVW. To view legislative proceedings click here for TVW. Please click here to go to the committee website pages. To find your Legislator click here or click here to send a message to your Legislator.

### What's happening on the floor?

The Legislature will convene for a Regular Session on January 9, 2023.

[House Floor Calendar](#) | [House Display Board](#) | [Senate Floor Calendar](#) | [Senate Display Board](#)

Please check the [Committee Schedules](#) website for the most up-to-date information concerning individual committee meeting dates and agendas.

Scheduled hearings and floor sessions: 01/04/2023 ▼

Committee	Agenda	Date/Time	Location	View Video	Last Updated
JLARC - Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee (J)	Agenda	1/04/2023 10:00 AM	HHR A and Virtual	<a href="#">View Video</a>	12/28/2022
JLARC I-900 Subcommittee for SAO Performance Audits (O)	Agenda	1/04/2023 1:00 PM	HHR A and Virtual	<a href="#">View Video</a>	12/28/2022

### Highlights

**Legislative Hotline: 1.800.562.6000**



### Let Your Voice Be Heard

- [Contact Your Legislators](#)
- [Participating in the Process](#)
- [Find Member Information/Rosters](#)
- [Accessibility Information](#)
- Find**
- [Laws & Rules](#)
- [Your District & Legislators](#)
- [Bills](#)

# SIGN IN YOUR POSITION on a BILL for LEGISLATIVE RECORD

- A quick way to encourage a Policy or Fiscal Committee to move forward a bill you really care about
- Your position pro/con will go into the legislative record. Committees check overall numbers of positions.
- You can also testify in writing or live by zoom.



## WAYS TO SIGN IN

- 1) Go to: <https://leg.wa.gov/> → Click on "Participating in the Process" under "Let Your Voice Be Heard." Then click "Get Your Position on a Bill Noted" OR
- 2) Go to: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/csi> OR
- 3) If you are signed up with FAN Action Alerts, you will receive links that take you there directly



# CREATE A CONVINCING MESSAGE

We will practice using the Farm Bill package

The Farm Bill is a package of federal legislation that is renewed every 5 years and dictates:

- how food is grown
- what kinds of food we produce, and
- how accessible that food will be to low-income families.

Multiple issues at stake in Farm Bill:

- Accessibility and adequacy of SNAP benefits, including removing obstacles such as time limits and work requirements, and more
- Increasing availability of fruits and vegetables
- Supporting small farmers through credit, loans and technical assistance
- Supporting agricultural conservation efforts



# Starting from Scratch

## **Identify yourself by name and district, and an important association**

- “As a United Methodist, I urge you to reject proposals that would restrict access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).”
- “As your constituent and an advocate with Faith Action Network ...”

## **If your legislator has done something positive, thank them for that.**

## **Share a "brownie" - a shared value or hope.**

- “We all need a robust and sustainable economy, and I believe a strong nutrition and agricultural programs will contribute to that.”

## **Briefly describe what issue or policy you are writing and request that your representative take a specific action. Names or numbers of bills are helpful.**

- “I ask that you please support and protect SNAP in upcoming negotiations.”



- “Specifically, I ask you to:
  - **Expand access to fresh fruits and vegetables ...**
  - **Support HR 1510: Improving Access to Nutrition**
  - **Reduce the climate impact of agricultural systems and strengthen agricultural communities**

## **Share a “story” of why it matters to you and your community**

- E.g., Do you or your church serve community dinner? Help out at or support a food bank? What have you noticed? Have you seen children’s homework improve after a good meal? Do you glean? Why?
- “As faith communities, we seek to do our part to feed our hungry neighbors, but we know that federal nutrition programs are able to provide ten times the food assistance that we and other charities can.”

## **Can include why it should matter to them—impact on district or country**

- E.g., UMC letter has statistics of who uses SNAP benefits
- 520,000 households on SNAP in WA State; when pandemic SNAP benefits ended, each recipient lost \$95 monthly; Currently, SNAP benefits are about \$6 per person per day. (FRAC)

**Thank them and ask them to follow up with you. Can repeat your ask.**

**Feel free to attach a fact sheet from an organization you trust.**

# Multiple Organizations Provide Sample Letters You Can Send or Scripts for Calls

Bread for the World

Faith Action Network

Food Research and Action Center

Northwest Harvest

UMC Church & Society

UWF

Often provide facts and bill numbers.



**If advocacy is hard for you,  
treat yourself afterwards!**



# Practice

1- Please take 5 minutes to personalize a letter with a story about someone you know who is affected by food insecurity, or how you or your community is impacted.

Do you glean? Help in a food bank? Provide a community meal? Have your own backyard vegetable garden? Do you have folks on SNAP in your faith community? Tell how this matters to you and how it might relate to the Farm Bill.

2- If you have time, discuss values or phrases you could lift up that might be convincing to a legislator.



# Capture the momentum!

[https://actionnetwork.org/letters/take-action-for-the-farm-bill?delivery\\_id=90613371](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/take-action-for-the-farm-bill?delivery_id=90613371)

<https://www.umcjustice.org/what-you-can-do/advocacy/take-action>



# BRING ADVOCACY TO YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Go together to Interfaith Advocacy Day. Meet for lunch to share your experiences.

Plan a regular zoom or in-person gathering for interested members to advocate in parallel, sharing ideas and fellowship.

Choose one or two bills that you believe will be of interest to your faith community. Set up a TAKE FIVE table with postcards, laptops, etc. so people can write emails or letters.

Invite your legislator to visit your social service venue or speak at a forum.

# RESOURCES



<https://fanwa.org>



United  
Women  
in Faith

<https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/>



**CHURCH & SOCIETY**  
The United Methodist Church

<https://www.umcjustice.org/>



<https://leg.wa.gov/>



Home >> Advocacy >> Bill Tracker

### Who are My Legislators?

Find out who your Washington State legislators are for [your legislative district](#).

The FAN Bill Tracker is updated once a week on Fridays. To check for more up-to-date information, click on the bill number to take you to the official Bill Information page on the [Washington State Legislature website](#).

Updated March 30, 2022

### What's the Status of a Bill?

You can find more details on any bill from the legislature's [Bill Information](#) page.

### Advocating for a Economic Justice and Reducing Poverty

Category	Bill Number	Prime Sponsor	Bill Title/Description	Bill Status
Food/Nutrition	<a href="#">HB 1878</a> <a href="#">SB 5798</a>	Rep. Riccelli Sen. C. Wilson	Expand free lunches to all students	PASSED. Governor signed on 3/4.
Food/Nutrition	<a href="#">HB 1833</a>	Rep. Berg	Statewide multilingual tool for school meal applications and programs	PASSED. Governor signed on 3/23.
Economic Justice	<a href="#">SB 5838</a> <a href="#">HB 1947</a>	Sen. Nobles Rep. Frame	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) diaper subsidy	PASSED. Governor signed on 3/17. Did not move past House Appropriations Committee. SB 5838 moved this policy forward.
Economic Justice	<a href="#">HB 2048</a>	Rep. Peterson	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) time limit extensions	Did not move past House Rules Committee.





# Advocacy Toolkit

[Home](#) >> [Advocacy](#) >> Advocacy Toolkit

## This is what faith in action looks like.

Whether you are just getting started or want to provide a refresher for your faith community or social justice group, below are a variety of resources to help. The first section highlights the building blocks of advocacy; **click on the images for documents and links that help you Learn the Basics, Contact Legislators, Mobilize Communities, and Utilize the Media.**

Scroll down to find more specific resources about issues FAN works on year-round. We hope that you will find them helpful to put your faith in action!

If you need help, please contact us! Email Faith Action Network at [fan@fanwa.org](mailto:fan@fanwa.org) or call us at 206-625-9790. We would love to partner with you in your work.

To learn more about specific bills and legislation, check out our [Issue Fact Sheets](#) page. During the legislative session, [leg.wa.gov](#) will be your guide, as well the [Legislative Information Center](#).

**Learn the Basics**

**Contact Legislators**

**Mobilize Communities**

**Utilize the Media**

## Additional Community Issues

Below are resources for issues beyond those specified in our [Legislative Issue Fact Sheets](#). We offer them for use in your faith communities.

**Climate Justice**

**Gender & Sexuality**

**Immigration/Sanctuary**

**Vaccine Equity**



[Home](#) >> [Advocacy](#) >> [Advocacy Toolkit](#) >> Contact Legislators

This section of the Advocacy Toolkit provides helpful tips on contacting legislators on the state and federal levels through letter writing, phone calls, and in-person meetings.

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**[Find Your Districts:](#)**

You can find both legislative and congressional districts at this link.

**[Tips for Meeting with Legislators:](#)**

This link provides an overview of how to meet with legislators.

**[Advocacy by Letter, Postcard, or Email:](#)**

How to contact your legislator via written word.

**[Advocacy By Telephone:](#)**

How to contact your legislator over the phone.

**[How to Conduct a Virtual Meeting:](#)**

How to contact your legislator in the time of COVID-19 and social distancing.

**[Communicating with Congress: Emails, Letters, and Phone Calls:](#)**

Tips for contacting federal elected officials.

**[Developing Effective Messages/Desarrollo de Mensajes Efectivos:](#)**

This link outlines how to create an effective message to take to legislative meetings, including a template to use in preparation. (English/Español)

**[8 Tips for a Successful Olympia Visit:](#)**

Read this document before preparing for a visit with your state legislators.

**[8 Tips for a Successful Congressional Visit:](#)**

Read this document before preparing for a visit with your federal legislators.

**[Meeting with Your Legislator During the Interim:](#)**

The Washington State legislature is in session only a few months per year. The off-season is a great time to meet with elected officials in their home districts to discuss the issues that matter to you!

**[Meeting with Congress Members during the August Recess:](#)**

The US Congress typically recesses during the month of August each year. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Advocacy Network shares this guide to





**GO FORTH TO  
TAKE ACTION!!!**

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