



**WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL**  
**Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty**

**Church Ambassador Network**

**Practical Guidelines for Connecting with Elected Officials**

1. Make an appointment by calling their office in the Capitol.
2. The goal of these meetings is spiritual impact. Do not get drawn into the political issues of the day, as important as they are.
3. Whether meeting at the Capitol or “back home”, be on time.
4. Generally speaking, dress for meeting with an elected official at the Capitol would be coat and tie.
5. Refer to the legislator using his/her title: For instance, Representative Smith, Senator Jones, etc.
6. Be time sensitive. Legislators, like everyone else, have busy schedules. Accomplish your purpose, thank them for their time, ask their permission to pray with them before you leave, pray, and leave.
7. **Maintain confidentiality.**
8. Do not ask to take a picture. This will derail the best of intentions. If they ask you if you want to take a picture, we suggest politely declining. (You aren’t there to use the official to promote an agenda, or to be used by the official to promote an agenda.)
9. Take your Bible. Share a passage. In the first meeting, reading Paul’s admonition to Timothy in I Timothy 2:1-4 is a good place to start. Always have your Bible and always begin a meeting with an appropriate passage.
10. When you come to the Capitol, plan to visit several offices. People in your church may be served by representatives from two or more districts.
11. Be alert for opportunities to share the gospel, including with staffers. Bring good tracts with you.
12. **Treat communications from a legislator in confidence.** If you violate confidence you will compromise your ability to have a ministry, and the ability of others to have a ministry.
13. If meeting at the Capitol, please let Dave Lingle know so he can meet with you there for prayer and support.
14. **Anytime you have contact with an elected official to pray with and for them,** please let Dave Lingle know. We do not need details or info about anything shared in confidence. We just want to maintain records that will show our donor supporters that we are making progress with this initiative.
15. State legislators are not allowed to accept gifts.
16. Never work with or through a campaign office.
17. **Maintaining confidentiality must be a high priority.**
18. Assume they will want to meet with you. Most elected officials view constituent contacts as a positive. Do your best, by God’s grace, to ensure that this is how they view a contact from you.
19. Plan to continue to connect with a legislator even after (s)he has lost an election or is no longer in office. Their need for ministry obviously isn’t limited to their time in elected office!
20. Maintain confidentiality. It really is important enough for me to repeat it. (E.g., do not share a personal prayer request from a legislator with other legislators, other pastors, or your church family, unless you have explicit permission to do so. Even then, use discretion.)

(These same guidelines would apply for city and county officials as well.)