

The Time is Now: Why Elected Officials Need to Hear from Public Health Experts Now More Than Ever

Tips, tools and guidance for public health advocacy



Authors: Jessica Nischik-Long MPH, Sarah Lochner MA



WHY NOW?

- Spotlight on Public Health
- The legislature has money
- Equity
- Climate change
- Roe

ACTION is the Antidote to Anxiety!

Ready? Set. Go!

Advocacy Agendas

OPHA

Climate change / Clean Energy Jobs

Paid Family Leave

School Immunization Non-medical exemptions

Racism is a Public Health Crisis

CLHO

Public Health Modernization Funding: \$286m

Workforce Incentives Package: \$40m

Tobacco Flavor Ban

TBD

How to Advocate:

As a constituent:

Engage on your own time by connecting with your legislators outside of working hours.

Build a relationship with your legislators

Get involved in campaigns*

Participate in legislative session

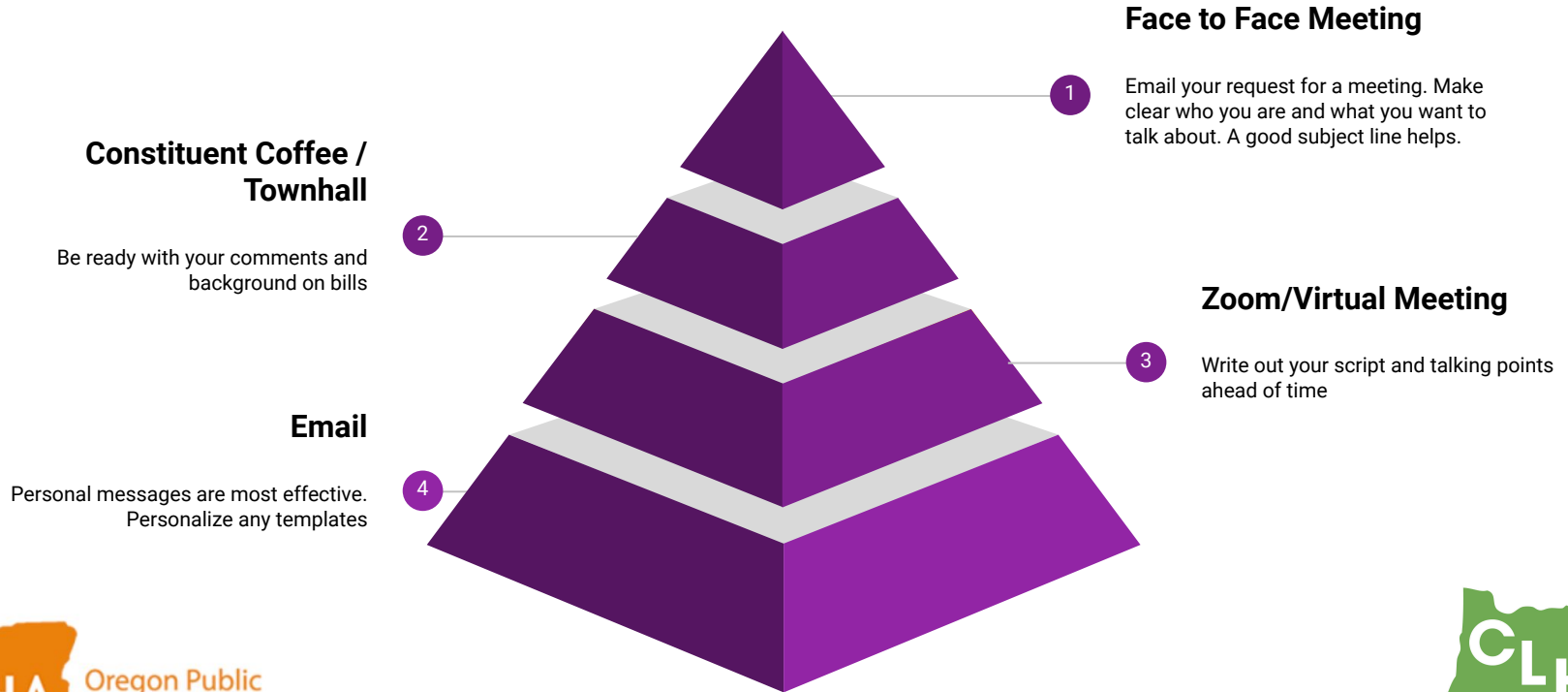
As a public health expert:

Check with your supervisor if you want to participate as a part of your job.

*Campaign activity can only be done on personal time if you work for a government entity or 501c(3)


How to contact your legislator

The Hierarchy of Contact



How to participate in campaign season

Time and Money

- **Donate to The Public Health Political Action Committee (PAC)**
 - Bundled donations that send a message / make a clear statement of values
 - Elect more public health champions  More investment in Public Health
- **Volunteer or Donate Directly to Candidates**
 - Google candidates, use the contact info on campaign website
 - Opposition research, phone banking, canvassing.
 - Write a letter to the editor or Op Ed.

How to participate in legislative session

Plug-in, Prepare, & Polish

- Track legislation through OLIS
- Meet with your legislators / commissioners or their staff
- Sign up to testify
 - Be direct and know the facts: cost, importance, affected population, tell a story
 - Break it down / make it simple
- Submit written testimony
- Help write testimony for OPHA & CLHO
- Submit an op-ed or letter to the editor
- Participate in Advocacy Day

**What's your
plan to help
support our
public health
system?**

Be a Star Student!



- ★ Educate yourself on the process & players
 - Watch CLHO “Legislative Learning” webinar series
 - CLHO Legislative Toolkit
- ★ Donate & Volunteer
- ★ Show up!
- ★ Talk to your electeds.
- ★ Look to advocacy organizations for support! There is power in numbers.
 - Become a member of OHPA; sign up for CLHO newsletter
- ★ Don't give up!

