



TIPS FOR MEETING WITH LEGISLATORS

GFWC Legislation/Public Policy

- A Legislator's website/newsletter/social media messages are the best way to find out about your legislator's work and interests. Research before you visit!
- When requesting a meeting, describe your organization and the purpose of the meeting:
 - "The Best Woman's Club," located in your district, would like to discuss local resources and programs to support survivors of domestic violence.
- Identifying the reason for your visit in advance provides the office the opportunity to make certain you are meeting with the right staff.
- Normal meeting times: 30 minutes for staff and 10-15 minutes for legislators. If meeting with the Legislator, then ask for a photo with the group for your website.
- Prioritize your message, don't try to cover too much:
 - There are 50 members of "The Best Woman's Club" and we care about preventing domestic violence and increasing resources for survivors because it impacts children and families in our community. Get the talking points from GFWC's Legislative Action Center and/or GFWC Resolutions.
- Meet with your Legislator or staff in the local district office. Locations are listed on their websites. Often they host town halls or local community meetings. Building a relationship with the local staff is the best entre to the Legislator. Invite the district director to speak to "The Best Woman's Club" and learn more about his/her job and issues which are important. When the club is hosting special events, invite the local district staff to attend. When you are visiting Washington, DC, meet with your congressional delegation – two Senate offices and your member of Congress.
- Have a Leave Behind: a one pager which describes the issue, gives relevant information, includes an ASK, and also includes a brief description of GFWC, "The Best Woman's Club", and the best local contact.
- Use your resources: check federal department websites, non-profit organizations which are issue based – such as education or conservation, and do your homework before meeting with elected officials.
- Leave enough time for them to ask questions, and enjoy. This is your civic duty!