



Frequently Asked Questions

Questions regarding policymaker meetings:

Q How do I schedule meetings with my policymakers?

A Groundwork Ohio will schedule meetings for you, and your schedule will be available when you check in at advocacy day. We will do our best to schedule your meetings with your policymakers, however, we may need to schedule your meeting with a legislative office in your specific region. Session and committee meetings are scheduled on this day, so you may meet with legislative staff members. This is just as important as meeting with the legislators themselves, and your advocacy efforts should remain the same.

Try to arrive at the legislative office and check-in for your scheduled meetings at least 5 minutes in advance and connect with your small group. A legislative staff member will collect you for your meeting. If all members are not there at that time, move forward. They may be delayed and will catch up with you as soon as possible.

Q What kind of security will I need to go through prior to meetings?

A Both the Statehouse and Vern Riffe Center require all attendees to pass through metal detectors and screenings. Large bags are not recommended. Please ensure you have enough time to get through security and to your meetings on time. You can learn more about the security measures for the Statehouse [here](#).

Q Will I be meeting with policymakers representing my home or my work?

A As we schedule your meetings, we will take both into consideration, as well as how many individuals from each House and Senate District are attending. We know our policymakers like to meet with the constituents who live in their districts.

If you are scheduling your own advocacy efforts at your workplace during the budget season, you would want to invite the policymakers who represent your work address.

Q Will there be a facilitator for the legislative meetings or should we come prepared with our own ideas and agenda?

A You are the facilitators for your meetings, and you will be provided with lots of information in your folders that can be shared. Your BIG VOICE is powerful, and you are the experts of your own experiences – don't be afraid to share your stories. We will assign a group "LEAD" for each group who can help to keep the meeting on track.

Q Are we allowed to bring our own statistics for our County as well?

A We will provide your policymaker with a County Fact Sheet with statistics that support Groundwork Ohio's budget priorities. You are welcome to add statistics from your agency if they help tell the story.

Q Are we typically meeting with lawmakers or their staff?

A We wish all policymakers would be available, but if they are not, you will meet with their legislative staff. Your advocacy should not change if your policymaker is not available. Remember, meeting with a legislative staffer can be just as effective and important as meeting with the legislator.

Q Where can we find information about policymakers?

A You can find information about all state policymakers, including a bio, committee assignments, press releases, and more, online here: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/>

Q How do I address my policymaker?

A Please use Senator or Representative when addressing your policymaker directly.

Q Do you want us to also wear our work badges so our policymaker knows what agency we are from?

A We will provide you with a name tag with the name of your agency on it if it's been provided. You are welcome, of course, to wear your work badges too.

Q Will we know who we're meeting with in advance?

A Unfortunately, scheduling meetings for 400 people will not allow us to publish meeting times or the names of those in your small group in advance. You will receive that information at registration.

Q During our meetings, does only the LEAD speak?

A We want everyone in the group to have the opportunity to participate and share why they are advocating for Ohio's young children. Remember, you will

have about 15 minutes, so practice your thoughts, be succinct, and share your passion.

Q How are LEADS chosen?

A Groundwork Ohio's team will identify LEADS. These will be attendees who have experience meeting with legislators and engaging in the legislative process to help support the rest of the group.

Q Can we link up in advance with our group before meetings?

A We cannot promise this, but there is a pretty good chance you'll know at least one other person in your group. We encourage you to gather at the Riffe Center in the Studio Theatre Lobby before and between meetings and/or arrive at your scheduled meeting 5 minutes in advance to connect with your group.

Q Will we know ahead of time if no meetings with our specific legislators were able to be scheduled?

A You will not know ahead of time as things change so quickly with our legislators. We understand that might be frustrating, but even if you don't meet with your specific legislator, you will still get a meeting with someone from the General Assembly.

Q How do we address Legislative Aides?

A Aides will typically introduce themselves to you by their first name.

Questions Regarding the Morning Program:

Q Which Statehouse entrance should I use?

A We are asking participants to enter at the Third Street Entrance of the Statehouse, go through security, then look for signs and volunteers to assist you to the Atrium.

Q If we are not able to get there right by 8:30 am due to travel, is that going to interfere with the program?

A We know some of you are travelling great distances. While we don't want you to miss one minute of the program we have planned, we will look forward to seeing you when you arrive.

Q Will I be assigned to an area or table for the program?

A Yes, all attendees will be assigned a table in the Atrium.

Q Which legislators have been invited to the morning event?

A All legislators have been invited to stop by, join the event, or have lunch. We will have four legislators receive awards, and four legislators participate in a legislative panel.

Q What if we can no longer attend?

A Please notify Groundwork immediately so that we can make space for others. You can email cargiro@groundworkohio.org.

Questions about Policy

Q Is the budget for one year?

A The state operating budget is a biennial budget representing two years. This budget, once signed by the Governor, will be in effect July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025.

Q What is Groundwork asking for in terms of policy?

A We will provide you with our policy agenda in your folders on March 8th. The focus will be on provisions in the budget that support Ohio's youngest children and the families that care for them.

Q What are our legislative term limits?

A The Ohio legislature does have term limits. In the Ohio Senate, they are limited to no more than two (2) successive terms of four (4) years. In the Ohio House of Representatives, they are limited to no more than four (4) successive terms of two (2) years. Terms are considered successive unless separated by a period of four (4) or more years.

Questions about Materials and Resources

Q Where do I find / What is my Virtual Folder?

A Registrants should have received information via email with Virtual Folder in the subject line. These emails provided additional information to help you prepare for Advocacy Day. You can find those resources at <http://www.groundworkohio.org/advocacyday>.

Q Will you provide us with Twitter/Facebook posts we can use on social media?

A Yes, we will have sample social media posts available. We will also provide you with hashtags and will have a step-and-repeat "photo booth" in the Statehouse Atrium for group photos and selfies.

Q Should we be preparing any documents to share in addition to Groundwork's materials?

A No need - we will provide you with lots of information for you and for your policymaker.