



All Politics Is Local

Tips for Successful Canine Advocacy

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Know how to effectively communicate with decision makers *before* issues arise

- Get to know your elected officials, policymakers, and the head of animal control
- Demonstrate that you are reasonable, knowledgeable, and willing to assist
- Volunteer to consult on and help draft dog-related measures and to review drafts before they are finalized

Know the background of dog-related measures

- What prompted the initiative?
- Did it result from a particular event?
- What action has already been taken?

Know who initiated action

- Did an individual or group request action?
- Why?
- What issues do they want resolved?
- What do they expect?
- What is the individual's or group's request or demand?

Know who is backing an ordinance, rule, policy, or regulation

- Did the measure originate with an elected official, governmental committee, agency, task force, or government employee?
- Did the measure originate with a local or non-local individual or special interest group?
- Is the measure being promoted by an individual or special interest group?
 - What is their relationship to the issue?
 - What is their position relative to the governing body, agency, or department?
 - Is there a business or personal relationship between the promoter and a lawmaker or rule maker?
- Which elected official sponsored the measure and which are supporting it?

Know the process a proposed ordinance, rule, policy, or regulation must follow in order to become binding

- What is the drafting process?
- What public meetings and input are customary or required?
- How many readings or hearings are held by the enacting body?
- How many times will the enacting body vote on the measure?
- What vote is required for enactment—majority, 2/3, 3/4, etc.?
- What happens after enactment?

Express your appreciation

- Thank officials for allowing you to participate in the process
- If the end result is satisfactory, have your kennel club thank and publically recognize key leaders and lawmakers
- Write personal letters of thanks