



## LEARNING ABOUT YOUR LEGISLATORS

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One of the first and most important steps to becoming an effective advocate is to research and learn about the legislators you are trying to influence. Uncovering background information, legislative activities, and personal details about decision makers could be key to achieving your policy goals.

**Background Information:** Use [ASLA's iAdvocate Network](#) to identify your federal legislators.

**Enter your address and zip code** to access the full list of your federal and state legislators. Click on the legislator's name to find basic personal, political, staff, and contact information.

- Legislator's Name
- Office
- Dates in office
- What other elected positions has the legislator held in the past?
- Research personal information – education, professional organizations, hobbies, etc.
- What are the legislators' committee assignments?
- Use [this website](#) to learn if your legislator is leaving Congress after 2022.

**Legislative Information:** Use [Congress.gov](#) to locate legislation, including bills, amendments, and other activities relevant to your legislators.

- What bills has your legislator introduced? Cosponsored?
- Is your legislator a cosponsor of the Excess Urban Heat Mitigation Act (H.R. 7534)?
- Is your legislator a cosponsor of the Outdoors for All Act (H.R. 5413, S. 2887)?

**Priority Issues:** **Visit your legislator's website** to learn about their priority legislative issues, activities in the congressional district or state, news and press releases, and more. For House of Representatives use last name + House.gov, i.e. Sarbanes.House.gov. For Senate use last name + Senate.gov, i.e. Burr.Senate.gov.

- What are the top 3 policy issues for this legislator?
- What is the legislator's position/stance on ASLA's key priorities:
  - Climate Change
  - Equity and Inclusion
  - Water and Stormwater Management
  - Parks and Recreation
  - Active Transportation
  - Community Infrastructure
- What cities and towns are included in the legislators' district/state? This information may help you identify landscape architecture projects in the legislator's district/state?
- What are the legislators' key constituent activities in the congressional district – ribbon cuttings, parades, infrastructure project visits?



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**Your Personal Connections:** While researching your legislation and policy makers, you may discover that you have a personal connection to your legislators — you attended the same college, you both are cyclists or hikers, or you connect on social media and other outlets. These personal connections can be conversation icebreakers, or a tool to help the legislator understand landscape architecture.

- Do you have a personal connection with the legislator? School, church, community organizations, other?
- Do you receive newsletters or other official correspondence from the legislator?
- Do you participate in the legislator's town hall meetings?
- Do you have mutual social media connections, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram?