

Guidelines for Contacting Our Elected Representatives

These guidelines have been prepared to help you exercise your freedom and responsibility as a Christian citizen in this state. The first section provides some general considerations when communicating with elected officials, and can be easily adapted for use in writing Letters to the Editor of newspapers or other organizations.

The second section provides some selected prayer suggestions for our elected officials and for our nation.

The third section details the contact information for elected officials that represent us at both the national and state levels. In using this information, use whatever method of communication is the most comfortable for you. It can be either by written letter, e-mail, phone call, or Fax. The important thing is that your opinion (concern or encouragement) be provided to your representative, whatever way it is actually delivered to them.

If you find any inaccuracies in the following information, please call it to the attention of any member of the GBC Christian Citizenship Ministry or contact the GBC office.

General Guidelines when Communicating with Elected Officials

- *The amount of influence we have can be dependent upon the means of communicating. Typically, the following are in order of impact:*
 - *Personal visit (highest impact)*
 - *Personal phone call*
 - *Personal letter (mail or Fax)*
 - *Personal e-mail*
 - *Form letter or petition (mail or Fax)*
 - *Form e-mail or electronic petition*
- *Write to the appropriate person*
- *Address the official properly (title, position, etc.)(1 Peter 2:17)*
- *Always be courteous (2 Tim 2:25)*
- *Be appropriate - you don't have to show your Christian bias (may automatically be rejected), state concerns and what you want done*
- *Reference specific legislation by title or number if possible*

- *Be brief, make your point clear, be precise on what you are writing about, and don't ramble (Matt 5:37)*
- *Typically, only tackle a single issue or topic per letter*
- *Keep to one page or less, multiple pages letters are easily ignored*
- *Be original (use your own words), don't use a form letter approach*
- *Be legible (if it can't be read, it won't be)*
- *Be clear on what action (if any) you are requesting to be taken*
- *Be specific if you want a reply or not and by what time you want it*
- *Have others read your letter for content, tone, grammar & spelling*
- *Be sure to "cc" other appropriate persons or groups*
- *Keep a file copy of your letter, as well as any responses received*
- *Be patient in waiting for a response, send a follow-up letter after a grace period (reference the previous letter)*
- *Send another letter if you're not satisfied with the response received*
- *Write letters of encouragement also, particularly when pleased with something (Rom 13:7)*
- *Reminder: you can address spiritual issues separately (1 Tim 2:1-2)*

Selected Prayer Suggestions for our Elected Officials and our Nation

Our elected leaders and their advisors (1 Tim 2:1-2)

- *Pray for the salvation of all in authority over us*
- *Pray leaders will recognize their accountability to an almighty God*
- *Pray for our leaders and their families' safety*
- *Pray they would use Biblical principles to guide all their decisions*
- *Pray they will be diligent in exercising their God-ordained duties*
- *Pray Christians would be diligent to encourage leaders to do good*
- *Give thanks for the believers who occupy high political offices*
- *Give thanks that we have a President who covets your prayers*
- *Give thanks for those upholding righteousness in the public arena*
- *Give thanks when evil is punished and the good is commended*
- *Give thanks for the many who diligently serve us and our land*

Our State and Nation (Prov 14:34)

- *Pray the Lord would raise up more godly leadership at all levels*
- *Pray righteous judges would be appointed everywhere*
- *Pray that righteous and just laws would be enacted and enforced*
- *Pray our nation's decisions would be a godly testimony to the rest of the world*
- *Pray Christians will actively engage our society for God's glory*
- *Pray abortion, sexual immorality & perversion would be eliminated from our land*

- *Give thanks for the many freedoms we enjoy in this country*
- *Give thanks for those who sacrifice so much to protect our freedoms (both in the military and in government)*
- *Give thanks we can openly worship and evangelize*
- *Give thanks we have freedom of conscience to exercise our beliefs*
- *Give thanks for the missionary heritage of this nation*
- *Give thanks our national Christian heritage still influences many*
- *Give thanks the Bible has the answers this state and nation need*

Elected Officials Contact Information California Example (as of May 2004)

President

President George Bush 202-456-1414, 202-456-1111 president@whitehouse.gov
 Mailing address: The White House, Washington D.C. 20500, Fax 202-456-2461

Local Congressional Representatives:

To view all California Congressional Representatives: <http://clerk.house.gov/members/index.php>

49th District - Darrell Issa (R)	760-940-4380	http://www.house.gov/issa/contact.htm
50th District - Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R)	760-737-8438	http://www.house.gov/cunningham/IMA/get_address3.htm
51st District - Bob Filner (D)	619-422-5963	http://www.house.gov/writerep/ (only)
52nd District - Duncan Hunter (R)	619-579-3001	http://www.house.gov/writerep/ (only)
53rd District - Susan Davis (D)	619-280-5353	susan.davis@mail.house.gov

Mailing address for Representatives:
 House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Switchboard: 202-224-3121

United States Senators

Dianne Feinstein (D)	619-231-9712	http://feinstein.senate.gov/email.html
Barbara Boxer (D)	619-239-3884	http://boxer.senate.gov/contact

Mailing address for Senators:
 Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; Switchboard: 202-224-3121

California Governor

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (R) State Capitol Office: 916-445-2841, Fax 916-445-4633
governor@governor.ca.gov
 San Diego Office: 619-525-4641, Fax 619-525-4640, State Capitol Operator: 916-322-9900

Mailing address: State Capitol Building, Sacramento CA 95814

California State Senators (San Diego Area)

Find your California legislator by zip code at: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html>

First phone number is Sacramento office, second is local office

36th District - Dennis Hollingsworth (R)	916-445-9781	909-699-1113
senator.hollingsworth@sen.ca.gov		
37th District - Jim Battin (R)	916-445-5581	760-568-0408
Jim.Battin@sen.ca.gov		
38th District - Bill Morrow (R)	916-445-3731	760-434-7930
http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/38/feed.asp		
39th District - Dede Alpert (D)	916-445-3952	619-645-3090
senator.alpert@sen.ca.gov		
40th District - Denise Moreno Ducheny (D)	916-445-6767	
http://democrats.sen.ca.gov/senator/ducheny/		

Mailing address for California State Senators:

California State Senate, PO Box 942848, Sacramento CA 94248-0001

California Assembly Members (San Diego Area)

Find your CA legislator by zip code: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html>

First phone number is Sacramento office, second is local office

66th District - Ray Haynes (R)	916-319-2066	909-699-1113
Assemblymember.Haynes@assembly.ca.gov		
73rd District - Patricia Bates (R)	916-319-2073	760-757-8084
Assemblymember.Bates@assembly.ca.gov		
74th District - Mark Wyland (R)	916-319-2074	760-631-7670
Assemblymember.Wyland@assembly.ca.gov		
75th District - George Plescia (R)	916-319-2075	858-385-0070
Assemblymember.Plescia@assembly.ca.gov		
76th District - Christine Kehoe (D)	916-319-2076	619-294-7600
Assemblymember.Kehoe@assembly.ca.gov		
77th District - Jay La Suer (R)	916-319-2077	619-465-7723
Assemblymember.Lasuer@assembly.ca.gov		
78th District - Shirley Horton (R)	916-319-2078	619-462-7878
Assemblymember.Shirley.Horton@assembly.ca.gov		
79th District - Juan Vargas (D)	916-319-2079	619-409-7979
Assemblymember.Vargas@assembly.ca.gov		
80th District - Bonnie Garcia (R)	916-319-2080	760-336-8912
Assemblymember.Garcia@assembly.ca.gov		

Mailing Address for California Assembly Members:

California State Assembly, PO Box 942849, Sacramento CA 94249-0001