



10 Tips for *Virtual* Advocacy in Action Legislative Meetings

1. Meeting materials

- ✓ It will be helpful to have the following **documents** handy during the day: Group Information, Meetings Links, YAD Agenda, Legislative and Support Agenda One Pagers, Meeting Tips, and Meeting Templates.
- ✓ **Find Meeting Materials at:** <https://mockingbirdsociety.org/take-action/events/youth-advocacy-day> or the Google Drive folder (the link will be provided before YAD).

2. **BEFORE** your Advocacy in Action meeting, **PLAN** your meeting – See our easy template!

- ✓ Groups will have time to prep for meetings starting at 12:00pm in the main Zoom room!
- ✓ You will have 15 minutes or less to meet with the legislator or their staff, so planning is crucial.

3. Log on to the virtual meeting 5 to 10 minutes early!

- ✓ Be sure you have the **virtual meeting information** handy, and make sure your mic and speakers are working. It is best to join from a computer if possible. Make sure you are **properly named on Zoom and include TMS**. Do not share your meeting links outside of your group.
- ✓ **Your Meeting Link will be shared before YAD, and will also be saved in the Google Drive folder (you'll receive the link before YAD).**

4. At the meeting, **introduce** your group and yourself!

- ✓ If you live in that legislator's district, let them know!

5. Start with a **"thank you"** to the legislator or their staff member for making time to meet with you.

6. *[If relevant]* **Thank the legislator or their staff member for their support** of the issues you are talking about today.

- ✓ Has this legislator been a Mockingbird **ally or champion** in the past?
- ✓ Is this legislator a **sponsor or co-sponsor** of a bill on our priority agenda?

7. **Know your budget requests, bills, and the facts.** See the [legislative agenda on our website](#) for guidance.

- ✓ **Reminder:** the legislator or staff you are meeting with may know a LOT or NOTHING AT ALL about the issue. **You are there to provide information and be a good listener** if they have questions or feedback.
- ✓ If a legislator or staff asks you a question you don't know the answer to, just tell them you will get back to them.
- ✓ **Group Lead:** Please write any questions raised by legislators down and give to TMS Staff at the end of the day.

8. **Share how the TMS Agenda items will affect you personally!** If you or someone in your group can speak about their experience, you can provide powerful information about being a young person who:

- ✓ Has been affected by juvenile records not being expunged
- ✓ Has concerns about aging out of Extended Foster Care during the pandemic
- ✓ Has struggled to financially transition to independence after being in care

9. **Be a good listener!** After you talk about our priorities and your personal stories, allow the legislator/staff to respond, and listen respectfully to them.

10. **Be honest!!** If you don't know the answer to a question, **DON'T MAKE IT UP**

11. **Ask for a COMMITMENT!** Ask the legislator or staff for their support on our priorities. Look at the **Lead and Support One Pager** document for guidance on what "asks" to make on each issue!

12. **GRATITUDE!** Thank the legislator or staff member for their time.