

# A Citizen's Guide to Exerting Political Power

## I. Know who represents you

My State Representative is: \_\_\_\_\_ District No. \_\_\_\_\_

My State Senator is : \_\_\_\_\_ Senate District No. \_\_\_\_\_

My U.S. Representative is: \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Representative District No. \_\_\_\_\_

My Two U.S Senators are: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

If you don't know these answers, call your County Election Commission office, they are usually very helpful. Or, go to the NRA-ILA website and pretend to compose a letter, to get all of your officials' names. Also, the websites for your state and county organizations list the officials and candidates for each party. Select your county for other offices. Close to elections, for opponents and the other campaigns, see the NRA "Candidate Ratings" and other ratings.

## II. Pick a candidate that you can support, and help in a campaign, starting now.

No candidates are perfect, but pick a campaign and pitch in. No matter what you can do, your help is needed. From stuffing envelopes, to walking a neighborhood putting flyers in doors, to maybe even campaign planning, your help is appreciated, even at this early stage in Campaigns (Fall 2009). Meet prospective candidates BEFORE the Caucuses, (early 2010), at Clubs and Town Meetings.

Meeting and helping your **State Representative Candidates** are a very good place to start. This will be in your own neighborhood. Their term is two years, a tight schedule, so start now to try to meet your current Representative and to offer help. Learn the Candidates for various Campaigns and who are running.

**III. Choose a Political Party and attend a Precinct Caucus. Get elected as Delegate to the County and State Assemblies.** Sometimes you are IT just for showing up. Plan to attend in this next election year, about March or April. **Unaffiliateds or "Independents" don't have a party and don't have individual Political Power.** All of the Parties have their flaws, but repairs and improvements can only be made from the inside. Bring friends to the Caucus and become a Precinct Leader, the basic elected position in a Party. You can learn how true Democracy works, it is interesting and rewarding. Anyone can be an INSIDER !

## IV. Write letters

Original handwritten or typed letters, signed in original BLUE ink and mailed, are always read, and often answered. Ask for, and get their responses in writing, a commitment that is hard for them to deny or ignore later. Faxes get trashed, emails get deleted, and when the queue is full, phone calls don't get recorded. All of these media are useful, and should be used, especially when time is short, but the handwritten letter demands action, and an answer.

## V. Multiply Your Efforts

Convince others that a pathetic political system comes from apathy.

"No one could make a greater mistake than he who did nothing,  
because he could do only a little."

--Edmund Burke