




Communicating With Your Legislator
CPA Assembly Day 2023

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General Assembly



<https://viriniageneralassembly.gov/>

“Active citizen participation is an integral part of a functioning representative democracy. **Members of the General Assembly want and need citizen input when crafting laws.** As a citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia, it is your right to voice your opinion regarding pending legislation. There are many ways in which citizens can communicate with their legislator: **phone calls, letters, email, or through visits to their legislative offices.**”

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General Assembly



“As a citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia, one of your greatest responsibilities is to help elect the legislator who represent all Virginians. But your role in the democratic process of government does not end at the polls. **By sharing your opinions and ideas with your elected officials, you help them resolve issues and evaluate pending legislation.”**

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Do your homework



- Understand the legislative process
- Research your legislator
 - Who's My Legislator
<https://whosmy.viriniageneralassembly.gov/>
 - Bio
 - Legislation
 - Committee assignments
 - Contact information



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Lynwood W. Lewis, Jr.
Democrat, District 6

Legislation Sponsored
Chief Patron
Chief Co-Patron
Co-Patron


Committees
Local Government (Chair)
Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources
Commerce and Labor
Education and Health
Rules

Biography
Born in Parksley, Virginia on November 26, 1961; : Attorney; Methodist;
Member of the House: 2004-2014; Member of the Senate: 2014-

District 6 Description
Accomack County (All), Mathews County (All), Northampton County (All), Norfolk City (Part), Virginia Beach City (Part).

Studies and Commissions
Groups that discuss and research specific subject matter in regards to legislation or public projects.

Aerospace Advisory Council
Broadband Advisory Council
Chesapeake Bay Commission
Flooding, Joint Subcommittee on Recurrent
Joint Rules
Manufacturing Development Commission
Modeling and Simulation Advisory Council
Small Business Commission
Subcommittee #1 Agriculture
The Virginia All Payers Claims Database and Doctor of Medical Science
Degree and Licensure
Water Commission, State
School Readiness Committee



Contact Information
district06@senate.virginia.gov


Legislative Staff
Jessie Williams, Legislative Chief of Staff; Gabby Francese

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Senate Connect



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Schedule an appointment

- Contact the legislator's office
- Meeting may be in person or virtual
- Legislators are busy during session



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Tips for meetings



- Arrive early
- Be flexible
- Mention your connections
- Be a good representative of the profession
- If virtual – think about background images

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Tips for meetings

- Limit your message to about 5 minutes
- Think big picture, not technical
- Stories are good
- Don't discuss:
 - Campaigns
 - Elections
 - Fundraising
 - Politics



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Meeting example: Rolling Conformity

- **Prepare for the meeting**

- Visit the VSCPA Rolling Conformity page, download the resources, and familiarize yourself with them
<https://www.vscpa.com/taxconformity>

Resources

Rolling tax conformity toolkit

- Whitepaper: **"Rolling tax conformity: A better option for Virginia"** (PDF). *Revised October 2022.*
- **Rolling tax conformity talking points** (DOCX)
- **Rolling tax conformity PowerPoint template** (PPT)

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Meeting example: Rolling Conformity

- Introduce yourself and give the legislator a copy of the VSCPA Whitepaper
- Mention a few of the talking points
- Ask for support
- Thank the legislator for their time
- Hello, Sen. Lewis. My name is Vivian Paige, and I am a member of the Virginia Society of CPAs. I'd like to speak with you today about Rolling Conformity, Senate Bill 1405 (House Bill 2193).
- Pick a couple with which you have personal experience
- I hope you will be able to support Rolling Conformity legislation.
- Thank you, Sen. Lewis, for meeting with me today.

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After the meeting



- Send a thank you note

- Follow the legislation



- Develop a relationship

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Our collective voice



Voter Voice

<https://www.vscpa.com/voter-voice>

Home / Voter Voice



Click Here to Tell Your Legislators to Support HB 1595 & SB 882 - Emergency Tax Conformity

In order for Virginia to conform its tax code to the Inflation Reduction Act, it is necessary for the General Assembly to pass emergency legislation bringing Virginia's date of conformity to Dec. 31, 2022. The VSCPA is supporting HB 1595 and SB 882. The emergency clause...

- Be an active participant in VSCPA advocacy
- Only requires a little time

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