



# ADVOCACY CHECKLIST

Every GCD can benefit from positive working relationships with elected officials and community leaders. TAGD recommends the following steps to regularly invest in those relationships and maintain open lines of communication with decision makers. See the next page to build a list of contacts that are important to your district!

Board members and staff should **be prepared** with GCD key messages (an "elevator speech") so that you are always ready for a productive conversation about the important work that GCDs do in managing groundwater.

**Introduce yourself**, board members, and staff (if applicable) to your local and state elected officials. They should think of you when they think of groundwater issues!

Consider **inviting elected officials and the local media** to a board meeting or on a tour of your facilities. It never hurts to ask!

Visit with your representatives leading up to the legislative session. **Set up a meeting** at the Capitol or at a local office to establish lines of communication and share information about your GCD and any legislative priorities.

When appropriate, work with your board to **establish formal positions and/or pass resolutions** on issues that could impact GCD operations or groundwater management, and share those with your elected officials.

At least once a year (hopefully more!) **issue a news release** about something happening in your district. A groundwater-informed community will translate into groundwater-informed elected officials.

**Send newsletters, email blasts, and any news releases** your district issues to your elected officials, community leaders, and journalists/media representatives.

**Write a letter to the editor** of your local paper(s) about water conservation, district services, groundwater information, upcoming elections, or any other informative topic.

**Participate in groups** like TAGD, TWCA, NWRA, GMDA, and others. Large numbers can help amplify all the voices involved. By being a TAGD member, you've already taken the first step!



# ADVOCACY CONTACT LIST

## STATE LEVEL

Representative(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Senator(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Key Committee Members: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## TIPS FOR MEETING WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR

- Call and ask to speak to a scheduler
- Introduce yourself
- Ask for a brief meeting with the legislator
- Do your research
- Prepare your talking points
- Bring copies of any pertinent printed materials
- Arrive at the meeting early
- Use good etiquette
- Be brief, don't expect more than 10 min with the legislator
- Send a follow up email to thank the legislator for their time and efforts

## COUNTY/CITY LEVEL

County Judge/Commissioners: \_\_\_\_\_

City Managers/Mayors/Councilpersons: \_\_\_\_\_

Tax Assessor/Collector: \_\_\_\_\_

County Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

Other City or County Personnel: \_\_\_\_\_

## COMMUNITY & MEDIA

Are there any other entities or community leaders that can help you better engage with elected officials?

Chamber of Commerce Staff: \_\_\_\_\_

Economic Development Organization Staff: \_\_\_\_\_

Newspaper Staff: \_\_\_\_\_

Radio/TV Station Staff: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Key Contacts: \_\_\_\_\_

## RELEVANT ADVOCACY GROUPS

Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_