

Research Your Representatives

Learn about your elected officials' propensity for climate action to help inform future outreach. Climate ambition is a spectrum, not a binary. Every elected official has room to improve. Contacting climate "obstructionists" isn't a lost cause, and even climate "champions" need encouragement in order to step up their climate leadership.

Step 1: Find out who represents you

Elected officials represent *you* and your interests, so it's important to be familiar with them! Use live.cicerodata.com to identify your elected officials at all levels of government.

Locality	Lookup Link
Richmond City, State, and Federal	live.cicerodata.com
Henrico County	tinyurl.com/henrico-lookup
Chesterfield County	tinyurl.com/chesterfield-lookup
Hanover County	tinyurl.com/hanover-lookup

How many reps do I have? Every Virginian has three members of Congress (two senators and one U.S. House rep) and two state legislators. You also have elected officials at the *local* level, like the mayors, city council members, or board of supervisor members who run your city or town.

Step 2: Buddy up & complete a worksheet for each elected official

To be the most effective advocate possible, you need to build an authentic relationship with your elected officials. Relationship-building starts by learning more about them—once you know which issues they care about and their history of climate action, you can tailor your outreach to resonate with them personally.

Follow this worksheet to research your elected officials. Pay attention to whether they mention climate action as a priority. If not, how about climate-aligned topics, like clean energy, public transit, or sustainable agriculture? This information will let you tailor your outreach in the next steps.

[Go to Worksheet](#)

Find someone else who you share a representative with, and work together!

Step 3: Send a 'thank you' or finger wagging email

Being an elected representative is often a thankless job. If you found some votes that your elected representatives have taken that are climate positive, sending a 'thank you' email goes a long way towards cultivating a relationship.

Likewise, if your elected representatives voted poorly on some climate legislation, sending an email that professionally expresses your disappointment is a powerful tool for nudging our elected representatives in the right direction.