

Guide to Making Public Comments: WHY?

Why Are You Speaking?

- To represent yourself as a private citizen expressing your personal opinions?
- Or, as a member of a volunteer or professional organization (The League, Advocacy group, etc.)?

It matters how you are presenting yourself because it will influence the tone, manner and approach you take in your communication to your elected official and whether you need approval before using your public comment.

- Will you be representing yourself as an individual and personal capacity?
- Are you representing yourself as a member of a volunteer organization and using the name of your affiliation as part of your comment?
- Are you representing yourself in a professional capacity as an expert, or affiliated with a professional organization?
- Are you creating a public comment with more than one author?

In the event you are using the League's name, or another group for which you are a volunteer or professional member, it is essential to ensure you have permission to represent the organization, and have review of and approval for any communication you are sending while using their name.