

ATTEND A TOWN HALL

Public meetings and events hosted by legislators provide an excellent opportunity for issue visibility and accountability. We can ensure that death penalty repeal is a key issue for legislators, while also holding our elected representatives accountable to their constituents. Asking legislators their position on repeal, explicitly asking for and encouraging their support, and sharing our own stories is key to successfully ending the death penalty in Colorado.

While you are discussing important issues with legislators, you need to remember a few **Do's** and **Don't's**.

DO...

- Identify as a constituent.
- Include a personal story, if you have one.
- Focus on one issue-point per question.
- End the question with a defined ask, i.e. “will you support the end of the death penalty” or “will you promise to support ending the death penalty.”
- Communicate with the ACLU that you will or have attended an event. Jot down exactly what happened and share with the ACLU.

DON'T...

- Be angry or hostile.
- Make up a story if you don't have one.
- Leave the question open-ended. You don't want to leave room for an unclear or wishy-washy answer.
- Focus on too many issues-points in a single question. This leaves room for legislators to avoid giving a clear answer, and could also be confusing.

Template

- **Identify who you are.** *Identify as a constituent. You can also include identities like LGBTQ, Black, parent, student, voter, social worker, public defender, etc.*
- **State your issue.** *Our issue is the end of the death penalty.*
- **Explain why you care and/or how you're impacted.** *Insert your personal story and/or your issue-point.*
- **Make the ask.** *Use a close-ended question to ask for your legislator's commitment to support death penalty repeal.*

Example:

“My name is Jane and I'm your constituent. I care about ending the death penalty because I am a mom, a voter and a Colorado taxpayer. I am concerned that the death penalty costs over \$1.5 million a year. The limited resources wasted on these expensive trials would be better spent on crime prevention to increase public safety in my neighborhood. Will you vote to end the death penalty in 2020?”

Find your legislator and their town halls

1. Go to leg.colorado.gov/FindMyLegislator
2. Enter your full address
3. Now that you know your state senator and representative, enter their names into an internet search engine
4. Go to their website or Facebook page
5. Go to their event or calendar section
6. Look for public meetings, which are often called “town halls” or “district meetings”
7. Attend and directly engage your legislator on death penalty repeal!
8. Report back to the ACLU

Contact Helen (hgriffiths@aclu-co.org) with any questions or updates on town halls.