

HOW TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS (AND MARSP!)

WHY MAKE AN INTRODUCTION?

- It's important to **BUILD RELATIONSHIPS** with policymakers outside of legislative crises. Introducing yourself is just the first step.
- Personal connections influence policymakers' awareness and investment in matters impacting public school retirees.
- Local member engagement reinforces MARSP's efforts in Lansing.



STEP 1: DECIDE HOW YOU WANT TO MAKE CONTACT

- How do you prefer to communicate?
- Phone calls, emails, handwritten letters, and In-person meetings are all great options. The BEST option is the one that works for YOU.



STEP 2: FIND LEGISLATOR CONTACT INFORMATION

- State Representative: www.house.mi.gov
- State Senator: www.senate.michigan.gov
 - Step 2.5: If you'd like to make your introduction in person, call or email to schedule a meeting.



STEP 3: PREPARE

- Research legislator's background, policy positions, and past support for MARSP-related issues.
- Review MARSP's mission and impact.

EXAMPLE INTRO:



STEP 4: THE INTRODUCTION

- Share your name, where you're from, your role in the public education system, and MARSP membership.
- Share MARSP's priorities, emphasizing the importance of protecting public school employees' retirement income and healthcare benefits.
- Share a personal example of MARSP's relevance to your life.

Hello, I'm [Your Name] from [Your City]. I served as [Role in Public Education System], and I'm a proud member of MARSP—the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel.

Founded in 1951, MARSP is the largest organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing retirement income and healthcare benefits for all of Michigan's public school employees. As a non-partisan group, we focus on policies that impact retired school personnel and uphold the integrity of the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System.

[Insert a brief personal story or reason why MARSP's mission matters to you.]

I urge your support and action to secure the long-term financial health of our retirement system.

Thank you for your commitment to serving our community and addressing the issues affecting retirees like me.



STEP 5: FOLLOW-UP

- If you met in person, send a thank-you email/card with a summary of your introduction.
- Offer to be a resource.
- Share your experience with fellow MARSP members. Invite them to join you in the future.
- Follow MARSP's updates for specific bills you can address in future conversations with your elected officials.

MAINTAIN A COLLABORATIVE TONE REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL DIFFERENCES. KEEP YOUR INTRODUCTION FOCUSED AND BRIEF.