

# Engage with Your Community

## Get involved with a community organization working to solve an issue

Volunteering with a community group or nonprofit organization can be a rewarding experience. It's also a great way to directly impact whichever issues are important to you. Many town websites have a list of local nonprofits, neighborhood associations, and community groups. You can also ask friends and neighbors if they know of groups who need volunteers or search online.

## Attend town committee meetings

Did you know that city/town meetings are open to the public? Dates for these meetings are posted on your town website. You can also view meeting agendas to know which topics will be discussed. Also, you can review minutes (notes) from previous meetings. Many town meetings may be hybrid, so you can take part in them from home, or they may be recorded and posted to the town website so you can view them afterward. This is a great way to know the major topics being discussed in your town, to see or meet the people making decisions, and to voice your opinion (during the public comment segment) if you are for or against something going on.

## Submit a letter to the editor or op-ed

Are you more of an independent worker? Or are you unable to leave your home often? One great way to voice your opinions on your own and from the comfort of your own home is to write a letter to the editor (LTE) or an op-ed (which stands for opposite the editorial page). Research your local print or online news source and note where to submit these letters, any deadlines, and the maximum word count.

An LTE will be shorter than an op-ed, and they tend to be written in response to a recent article (either opposed or in support) where the writer wants to add some information.

An op-ed is typically written by a well-known person. However, many news outlets also accept op-eds from readers, so check the requirements. Be sure to make a clear point, have an opinion from the beginning, and back it up with personal stories and facts.

## Pledge not to spread misinformation

It can be easy to spread misinformation without even knowing it! You can help stop the spread of misinformation. Here are a few tips to help you before you "like," forward, or repost a message:

Consider the source – are they reputable? Do you know this person personally, and do they know about this topic?

Take an extra minute to research the post. Look for credible sources that verify the message so you know it's true.

Remember that opinions are different than facts. Someone may write a message as though they are an "expert" on the topic, but it doesn't mean that's true. Make sure you know the difference.

## If you own a business or lead an organization, take the CEO Pledge at [CEOPledge.CT.gov](https://CEOPledge.CT.gov)

The office of the Connecticut Secretary of the State created the non-partisan Civically Engaged Organizations (CEO) program for businesses, non-profits, religious organizations, and towns. By taking the pledge and becoming a CEO, you're showing your community that civic engagement and civic education are important to you. Once you join, you'll receive monthly newsletters about important election-related dates and deadlines that you can post. And you'll have access to the CEO online toolkit with videos, graphics, documents, and sample social media posts for you to share. For more information, visit [CEOPledge.CT.gov](https://CEOPledge.CT.gov).



**The Power of Civics**  
You have the power – now use it!

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