

# Youth Advocacy Toolkit: San Antonio Edition

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## What is Local Advocacy?

Local advocacy means using your voice to influence decisions made by local leaders—like your San Antonio City Council members, County Commissioners, or local school board trustees. These decision-makers shape policy and funding that impact your daily life, from education to transportation to public safety.

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## Who Are Your Local Elected Officials?

### San Antonio City Council

San Antonio is divided into 10 City Council Districts. Each district is represented by one City Council member, and all are overseen by the Mayor.

- Find your Council Member: [San Antonio Council District Lookup Tool](#)

### Bexar County Commissioners Court

Bexar County is governed by four Commissioners and one County Judge.

- Find your County Commissioner: [Bexar County Precinct Map](#)
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## How to Contact Your Local Officials

### Email Template

**Subject:** Public Comment on [Issue/Bill Name or Topic]

Dear Council Member [Last Name]/Commissioner [Last Name],

My name is [Your Full Name], and I am a [student/resident/youth leader] living in District [#]. I'm writing to express my [support/opposition] for [describe the issue or proposal] because [brief personal reason or story].

This issue is important to me because [one key point or data]. I hope you will consider [what action you're asking them to take, e.g., voting a certain way, hosting a community conversation, etc.].

Thank you for your time and service to our community.

Sincerely, [Your Name]  
[Your Address or District]  
[Your Email]  
[Optional: Your Age or School/Organization]

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### **Phone Call Script**

"Hello, my name is [Your Name], and I'm a resident of District [#]. I'm calling to share my thoughts on [issue]. I strongly [support/oppose] [brief summary of issue], and I hope Council Member/Commissioner [Last Name] will [specific action you want them to take]. Thank you for taking my call!"

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### **Public Comment Template (For In-Person or Online Submissions)**

**What to Include in a Public Comment (1-2 Minutes or 300–400 words):**

- Introduce yourself and what district you're from
- Share a personal story or reason for your position
- Explain your perspective on the issue
- Ask the official(s) for a specific action

#### **Example:**

Good morning. My name is [Name] and I live in City Council District [#]. I'm here to speak in [support/opposition] of [issue]. As a young person, I've seen firsthand how [brief personal story]. This issue matters because [1-2 key facts or reasons]. I urge the council/commissioners to [clear ask]. Thank you for your time and leadership.

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### **Tips for Testifying or Commenting**

- Be respectful and clear
  - Stay on topic and within your time limit
  - Share personal stories or data
  - Practice your remarks in advance
  - Bring copies of your statement if speaking in person
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## **Where to Engage Locally**

- **City Council Meetings:** Held Thursdays at 9 AM at Municipal Plaza. Submit public comment via the City Clerk [online or in person](#).
  - **County Commissioner Meetings:** Held Tuesdays at 10 AM. Learn how to submit comment here: [Bexar County Commissioners Court Info](#).
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## **Stay Engaged**

- Follow your Council Member and County Commissioner on social media
- Sign up for newsletters or alerts
- Join a local youth advisory board or neighborhood association
- Invite elected officials to youth-led events!