



GIRLS

Empowerment Network

Post Up! Advocacy Initiative - Postcard Writing FAQs

For tons of helpful information, including these FAQs, postcard templates, information on each issue, and postcard printing instructions, visit our Post Up! Advocacy Initiative [Google Drive](#).

| Q | What is Post Up! Advocacy Initiative?

| A | We're thrilled to be celebrating Girls Empowerment Network's 25th Anniversary and our renewed commitment to advocacy and activism. Therefore, we created the Post Up! Advocacy Initiative to ignite the power in individuals by providing people with tools to use their voice and contribute to positive social change. We want to show people that they can, and will, make a difference in their communities.

The Post Up! Advocacy Initiative is an opportunity for people across the state of Texas to advocate for gender justice by sen

ding handwritten postcards to elected officials. This is a two part volunteer opportunity consisting of (1) a design/art contest and (2) postcard writing. Volunteers will have the opportunity to express why they are passionate about gender justice, whether it is through providing art for the postcard design, or calling on elected officials to advocate for their girl constituents. Whether you design or write, you will have the power to join Girls Empowerment Network in advocating for your community!

Currently, we're in Phase 2 of this volunteer project and are looking for volunteers to write handwritten postcards to elected officials.

| Q | What is the purpose of Post Up! Advocacy Postcard Writing?

| A | Postcard writing is an opportunity for people across the state of Texas to advocate for gender justice by sending handwritten postcards to elected officials. Volunteers will have the opportunity to express why they are passionate about gender justice while calling on elected officials to advocate for their girl constituents.

| Q | Who can participate in postcard writing?

| A | Postcard writing is open to those in the state of Texas. This is because postcards will be delivered by Girls Empowerment Network staff directly to the offices of elected officials in Texas. Our hope is to increase the impact of our message by delivering all postcards synchronously through a literature drop in late September.

| Q | Who will receive my postcards?

| A | As mentioned, elected officials will receive your postcards. **We strongly encourage you to write one postcard to each of your following elected officials: Governor Abbot, State Senator, State Representative, State Board of Education District Member, and City Council Member.**

| Q | What should be included in my postcards?

- Using our pre-designed postcards, volunteers are asked to write a **minimum of 5 postcards to various elected officials**. Visit the [how do I access](#) section of the FAQs to learn how to view and print your postcards.
 - Each postcard should be addressed to the Governor, your specific State Senator, State Representative, State Board of Education District Member, and/or City Council Member. Visit the [how to find my](#) elected officials section of the FAQs for help determining who your elected representatives are.
 - Using our [issue and language templates](#), you can choose which issues you would like your postcards to focus on. **Please follow our postcard language templates when writing your postcards.**
- We are currently asking for **handwritten postcards** as this provides a personalized touch and is more impactful than a typed postcard or email.
- We recommend taking **1-2 weeks max** to complete your postcards.
- Ensure your writing is legible.
- Send your completed postcards in an envelope to Girls Empowerment Network by mail*. Alternatively, you can also drop your completed postcards off at our Central

Texas office. If you'd like to drop off your postcards be sure to indicate this on the sign up sheet!

- If you choose to mail your postcards, please do enclose all 5 postcards in an envelope and mail them to:
 - **PO BOX 3122, Austin, Texas, 78764 (ATTN: Post Up! Advocacy Initiative).**
 - **Be sure to include your first and last name in the return address area of the mailing envelope so that we can credit you for your volunteer hours!**

**Note: These postcards will be hand delivered to elected officials and will not require paid postage. Please do not add stamps to your postcards!*

The sooner you can send us your postcards, the better!

| Q | What should I NOT write on the postcard?

| A | We ask volunteers to follow our template when writing their postcards. Below is a list of elements that are not acceptable to include in your postcards..

- Profanity.
- Mentions of illicit substances.
- Religious quotes or passages.
- Due to our designation as a 501c3 non-profit, we ask that volunteers refrain from including their position on partisan politics. ***Instead we ask volunteers to follow our [language templates](#) as these fall within our allowed parameters.***

| Q | How do I access the Post Up! Advocacy Initiative postcards so I can download them and print them?

| A | You can access everything you need to download and print postcards from [this google drive folder](#). In this folder there is the **Postcard Template** that you can download and print to write your postcards. There is also a document for **Printing Instructions** within that folder.

| Q | What should I print my postcards on?

| A | Cardstock, or on pieces of computer paper you then glue to cardstock.

| Q | I don't have access to a printer. How/when can I pick up pre-printed postcards at the Girls Empowerment Network Central Texas or Houston office?

| A | Postcards can be picked up from our Central Texas office on designated dates. You can find these dates and register to pick up postcards through our Post Up! Advocacy Initiative [registration form](#).

| Q | What should I write on my postcards? What structure and language do you recommend?

| A | Girls Empowerment Network has written guides to respond to 3 different issues impacting girls in Texas (*click on each link to read more on the issue*).

- 1) Increased social-emotional support services at schools
- 2) LGBTQIA youth protections
- 3) Voting rights

Here's what you should include in your postcard:

- The elected official's name
- Who you are
- The issue you are concerned about and why it matters to you
- What they can do to help/call to action
- Your signature and address

Below is the template/outline for writing your postcard. Detailed information and helpful statistics for each issue can be found [here](#).

Dear *[insert elected official's name]*,

My name is *[insert first and last name]* and I am a volunteer at Girls Empowerment Network. I'm writing to advocate for *[insert your issue]*.

[insert statistics or facts to frame your issue]

This issue matters to me because *[insert your why, your personal reason for being an advocate for this issue]*.

I am asking you to *[insert your call to action]*.

I appreciate your commitment to creating a more just and equitable Texas.

Sincerely,

[insert your name and address]

| Q | Why did Girls Empowerment Network choose to focus on these three issue topics for our advocacy initiative?

| A | **Increased social-emotional support services at schools:** At Girls Empowerment Network, we ignite the power in girls by teaching them the skills to thrive and believe in their ability to be unstoppable. In pursuit of this mission, we aim to elevate the importance of [social and emotional learning \(SEL\)](#) in our organization, schools, and the state of Texas.

LGBTQIA Youth Protections: At Girls Empowerment Network, we seek to support and affirm youth of marginalized gender identities. Our youth named LGBTQIA rights and protections as one of their policy priorities during our advocacy [Town Hall](#) and [Spark Change Day](#). It's OUR turn to raise our voices and advocate for a more inclusive Texas for our youth!

Voting Rights: Representation of women in politics, across all identities of race, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status, matters. If you can see it, you can be it – and we want all our girls to know they are unstoppable and can be anything. Voting is one of the many ways in which we can have our voices heard on important issues and how we ensure our communities are seen, represented, and considered in policy making.

| Q | Do I have to write all 5 postcards on the same issue? Who do I address my postcards to based on the issues I choose to write about?

| A | Not at all! You can mix and match your 5 postcards to be about any of the 3 issues we've provided templates for.

If advocating for [voting rights](#), we recommend addressing your postcard to Texas' Governor Greg Abbott.

If advocating for [increased social-emotional learning support services in schools](#), we recommend addressing your postcard to your State Board of Education member.

For your State Senator, State Representative, and City Council member, feel free to choose the issue that resonates most with you from the list above.

| Q | How do I find the elected officials who represent me?

| A | **To find your State Senator, State Representative and State Board of Education Representative** [click here](#). This link will allow you to search for your representatives by address or county. Searching by your address will generate more precise results. While searching by county will generate all possible representatives in that county.

To find your city council member: Information on your city council member can typically be found on the city's website. You can access city council information for the cities listed below by clicking on them.

- [Austin](#)
 - This link will lead you to the city's district council map. When you enter your address the map will tell you what district you are in. You can then click "district website" to see your city council member.
- [Houston](#)
- [Dallas](#)
 - After entering your address, click "council information" on the right side of the screen to determine your council member.
- [San Marcos](#)
- [San Antonio](#)
- [Round Rock](#)
- [Pflugerville](#)
- [Fort Worth](#)

Information about the Governor of Texas: Greg Abbott is the current Governor of Texas. The official website of the Governor of Texas can be found by [clicking here](#).

If you cannot find information on your elected official please reach out to Sofia Olimpia De La Cruz at sofia@girlsempowermentnetwork.org.

| Q | Are there accommodations available for those unable to handwrite?

| A | Yes, we ask those unable to handwrite will type their 5 separate postcards messages and then submit them to sofia@girlsempowermentnetwork.org Girls Empowerment Network staff will then hand write the postcard on behalf of the volunteer.

Please note: Volunteers must grant permission for Girls Empowerment Network staff to write postcards on their behalf. Permissions can be granted through our [registration form](#).

| Q | I have additional questions, who do I contact?

| A | Contact Sofia Olimpia De La Cruz, Central Texas Community Engagement VISTA, at sofia@girlsempowermentnetwork.org.