

LEG

LEGISLATIVE ENGAGEMENT GUIDE



Fostering Legislative Openness and
Responsiveness in Liberia

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ABOUT THE PUBLISHER

Naymote Partners for Democratic Development is a good governance and research institution working to advance the principles of democracy, rule of law and participatory governance in West Africa. The institution believes that a purposeful and effective civil society is needed to set the national policy agenda, stimulate sound and healthy grassroots' response to governance issues, and influence the uneven power dynamics that characterize the relationship between Liberia's citizens and government.

Since its establishment in 2001, the institution has initiated several programs to foster political accountability, thereby, making elected leaders more accessible, responsive, and accountable to the electorates. Naymote has built the capacity of local leaders to be more effective in-service delivery, increase youth and women participation in decision-making processes, etc.

The institution has trained some of the most prominent young politicians within the ECOWAS region and grooming a new generation of character driven and socially active young leaders that would be accountable, responsive, and accessible to the needs and interests of their citizens and help to shape the future of their respective countries.

The institution is a member of the World Movement for Democracy, the World Youth Movement for Democracy, the African Movement for Democracy, the Election Coordinating Committee, the Natural Resource Management Coalition and the National Civil Society Council of Liberia, etc.

For more information about the institution and its interventions and contributions toward sustaining and promoting the culture of democracy in Liberia, please visit our website at www.naymote.com.

The Legislative Engagement Guide is sponsored by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED). The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) is a private, nonprofit foundation dedicated to the growth and strengthening of democratic institutions around the world. Each year, NED makes more than 2,000 grants to support the projects of non-governmental groups abroad who are working for democratic goals in more than 100 countries <https://www.ned.org/>.

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YouTube: NAYMOTE-Liberia

FORWARD

The development of this Legislative Engagement Guide (LEG) is inspired by Naymote Partners for Democratic Development decade-long advocacy to promote democratic accountability and transparency in Liberia's governance processes as well as increasing legislators' responsiveness to the needs and aspirations of the people who elected them. The guide is keen on practical experiences, best practices and strategies that have proven to be successful and effective during legislative advocacies and civic engagements.

The primary objective of this guide is to promote the culture of legislative openness and responsiveness in Liberia. Additionally, the guide endeavors to promote transparency in public policy formulation and ensure engagement of civil society organizations and citizens in the legislative process in Liberia.

This guide is a practical tool that can be used to engage the Liberian Legislature as the fulcrum of Liberia's democracy because of its constitutional responsibilities to enact laws, represent citizens' interests and oversee executive policy implementation and performance. It is also intended to improve young people's skills to engage in constructive legislative advocacy and monitoring from an informed perspective, being knowledgeable of its structures and functions as well as strategies to get the Legislature working in the interest of the people.

This handbook provides an in-depth analysis of legislative advocacy highlighting the steps and tools to be used when advocating for the passage of a bill/legislation or to influence a legislative action. Moreover, this handbook also comes in handy when engaging lawmakers to deliver on their campaign promises after being elected which they rarely do, especially in African nations of which Liberia is no exception.

It is my ardent hope that development partners as well as ordinary Liberian citizens, especially the youth, women and other marginalized groups will use the information contained herein and advocate for a people-centered governance process in Liberia by fostering legislative openness, transparency, accessibility, accountability, and responsiveness.

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The *Legislative Information Service (LIS)* is a joint service department established in 2011 out of the Legislature's modernization program. The department serves as the **information repository** (knowledge bank) and **research resource** for the Legislature of Liberia and works exclusively for the Legislature by and through provision of credible and authoritative information. It is obliged to deliver objective and nonpartisan research and analysis to Members and Committees.

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To the thousands of Liberians who, since the formation of NAYMOTE in 2001, have sought to be educated, empowered, and engaged in democratic processes, a profound gratitude, and thanks!

Most importantly, we wish to thank the hardworking employees and support staff of Naymote Partners for Democratic Development and our innovative team leader, Eddie D. Jarwolo, who provides unending inspiration.

INTRODUCTION

"Rule of the majority" is sometimes referred to as **democracy**. Liberia, like the United States of America, Canada, India, and the United Kingdom practices a form of **representative democracy**. A representative democracy is a system where citizens of a country vote for **government representatives**, who in return develop laws and govern the country on their behalf.

In a representative **democracy**, citizens elect representatives from among themselves. These representatives meet to form a governing body, known as the Legislature, which is made up of the House of Representatives and Senate. Their main responsibilities are to make laws, represent citizen's interest and ensure checks and balances of the Executive and Judiciary branches of government.

Liberia has a bicameral Legislature. It comprises a Senate, the upper house, and the House of Representatives, considered the lower house. The House of Representatives and Senate make up the Liberian Legislature. For the House of Representatives, the number of seats is fixed by law at 73, with each county being apportioned several seats based on its population. There are 30 seats at the Liberian Senate, with each county having two senators.

Legislators are elected by simple majority. Members of the House of Representatives are elected once every six years. The House of Representatives elects a speaker as the presiding officer, a deputy speaker, and other officers to administer its functions. The Senate on the other hand elects a President Pro-tempore who works along with the President of the Senate to steer the affairs of the Senate. The President of the Senate is the Vice President of the Republic of Liberia.

The Liberian Constitution, in Article 34, provides the Legislature with the following functions:

- I. To create new counties and other political subdivisions, and readjust existing counties boundary;
- II. To provide for the security of the Republic;
- III. To provide for the common defense, to declare war and authorize the Executive to conclude peace, to raise and support the Armed forces of the Republic, etc.;
- IV. To levy taxes, duties, imposts, excise and other revenues to borrow money, issue currency, mint coins, and make appropriations for the fiscal governance of the Republic;
- V. To constitute courts inferior to the Supreme Court, including circuit courts, claims courts and such other courts with such prescribed jurisdictional functions as may be deemed necessary for the proper administration of justice throughout the Republic;
- VI. To approve treaties, conventions and other international agreements negotiated or signed on behalf of the Republic;
- VII. To regulate trade and commerce between Liberia and other nations;
- VIII. To establish laws for citizenship, naturalization and residence;

- IX. To enact the election laws;
- X. To establish various categories of criminal offenses and provide for the punishment thereof;
- XI. To enact laws providing pension scheme for various categories of government officials and employees in accordance with age and tenure of service; and
- XII. To make all other laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing functions, and all other functions vested by this Constitution in the Government of the Republic, or in any department or officer thereof.

NOTE One of the critically vital functions of the Legislature is to act on the holding of amendments such as amending the Liberian Constitution. Article 91 under Chapter XII captioned AMENDMENTS of the Constitution addresses the issue of referendum. It states: *“This Constitution may be amended whenever a proposal by either (1) two-thirds of the membership of both Houses of the Legislature or (2) a petition submitted to the Legislature, by not fewer than 10,000 citizens which receive the concurrence of two-thirds of the membership of both Houses of the Legislature, is ratified by two-thirds of the registered voters, voting in a referendum conducted by the Elections Commission not sooner than one year after the action of the Legislature.”*

Further, Article 92 asserts: *“Proposed constitutional amendments shall be accompanied by statements setting for the reasons therefore and shall be published in the Official Gazette and made known to the people through the information services of the Republic. If more than one proposed amendment is to be voted upon in a referendum, they shall be submitted in such manner that the people may vote for or against them separately.”*

In respect to these two articles, members of the Legislature who are direct representatives of the people, shall ensure that the instructions and mandates contained herein are strictly adhered to. In addition to lawmakers’ lawmaking role, which means they will have to vote on the passage of the referendum, they are also charged with the responsibility of monitoring the execution of the referendum law as passed, consistent with their oversight function. Where a breach is observed, the Executive can be called in for questioning by relevant legislative committees and the breach is resolved.

In 2011, Liberia initiated measures to amend the 1986 Constitution for the first time in 25 years. The most recent referendum was held on December 8th of 2020, with the Liberian Legislature exercising its full responsibility.

PART I: KNOW YOUR LEGISLATURE

1. What are the key functions of members of the Legislature?

The Legislature of Liberia is bicameral, comprising the Senate and House of Representatives. It consists of 103 members, elected from the 15 political subdivisions (counties) which have 73 electoral districts, as direct representatives of the people.

There are 30 senators elected, two from each of Liberia's 15 political sub-divisions (Counties), with a nine-year term, and a midterm election every six years. The 73 representatives are elected from the various electoral districts for a term of six years. According to Articles 29 and 34 of the Liberian Constitution, 'the legislative power of the Republic shall be vested in the Legislature of Liberia' with three cardinal functions: **lawmaking, representation, and oversight.**

- **LAWMAKING:** they make laws that address the concerns of the citizens of Liberia through the submission of bills from the Executive, individual members, or group of members of the Legislature or petitions from citizens.
- **REPRESENTATION:** the representative function requires that lawmakers attend sessions regularly and participate in deliberations and decision-making; during deliberations, they speak on issues affecting the lives of their constituents. Each lawmaker is required by their rules to speak on every issue on the agenda once or they may choose to cede their right to speak to another lawmaker.
- **OVERSIGHT:** Lawmakers monitor activities of the Executive Branch to ensure that government programs are implemented efficiently, effectively and in a manner that reflects the best interest of the citizens. If not, agents of the Executive are invited for questions through scrutiny and grilling. The oversight functions of lawmakers can be performed either by an individual lawmaker writing a communication to plenary addressed to the Speaker informing them (Plenary) or notifying the Body on any subject of concern that he or she believes affects/affecting the citizens. Similarly, a Legislative Committee be it a standing committee or a statutory committee can also invite an official of the Executive to provide clarification or respond to issue of concern(s).

Members of the House of Representatives represent single-member districts within the counties drawn up by the National Elections Commission (NEC) and serve a term of six (6) years.

The primary purpose of the House of Representatives is to enact laws: pass bills in conjunction with the Senate, so that they may be sent to the President for his/her approval or veto. The House of Representatives also holds the exclusive right to introduce revenue bills, as well as to impeach the President, the Vice President, and judges upon the concurrence of two-thirds of its membership.

Article 30 of the Constitution of Liberia sets four requirements for citizen to become member of the House of Representatives.

1. Possess Liberian citizenship.
2. Be at least twenty-five years of age.
3. Be domiciled in the district which he/she represents for at least one year prior to election; *and*
4. Be a taxpayer.

Article 38 of the Liberian Constitution empowers both Houses of the Legislature to create committees and sub-committees, with the only caveat being that the Committee on Ways, Means, Finance and Budget is required to consist of one representative from each county. However, overtime, the Committee on Peace and Reconciliation has all counties represented on it. The Speaker appoints all chairpersons and members of the House's committees while elections are held for leadership committee chairpersons; and the Pro tempore appoints chairpersons and members of all other committees.

2. How does a bill become a law?

A bill is a draft law presented to the Plenary for discussion and passage. In order to become a law, a bill must be passed by a majority vote in both chambers and signed by the President. By legislative practice and in accordance with the legislative rules, a bill must undergo three readings by plenary of the House of Representative or the Senate. However, the Plenary of the House of Representative can also decide that the first reading of the bill shall constitute the first, second and third depending on the political interest of the body, (Plenary). A bill must also be subjected to public hearing to engender public participation and input to make sure that there is greater citizen's views and inputs incorporated in the bill. In case of a presidential veto the Legislature can override consistent with Article 35 of the 1986 Constitution. The following steps constitute processes leading to a bill becoming a law:

1. A bill is introduced to the Plenary through or by a lawmaker.
2. The Plenary then sends the bill to the relevant committee(s) for review.
3. The committee(s) makes a report to the Plenary.
4. The Plenary votes on committees' reports.
5. A bill passed from the originating House is then sent for concurrence to the other House.
6. After concurrence, the bill is sent back to the originating house.
7. There are occasions where the other house makes additional input to the bill.
8. In such cases, there will be a conference committee, to make sure there is harmonization.
9. The bill (ACT) is then forwarded to the President for approval.
10. Upon approval, the ACT is then sent to the Foreign Ministry to be printed into a handbill.

3. How many votes are needed to pass a bill into law?

A simple majority, comprising 50 percent plus one vote of members in session is required for the passage of a bill. In the case of a bill of impeachment, and state of emergencies, a two-thirds majority of members present in the House of Representatives in session is needed to have it passed and a two-thirds is required by the Senate for removal.

4. What happens when a bill is introduced?

When a bill is introduced, it is recorded and numbered. When the session is convened, the plenary conducts the first reading of the bill and forwards it to the appropriate committee.

5. How does a bill differ from a resolution?

A bill differs from a resolution in that a bill is a draft of a proposed law presented to the Plenary for discussion, while a resolution reflects the general opinion of the Plenary.

6. What are the various types of legislations?

There are four types of legislations: bills, joint resolutions, concurrent resolutions, and simple resolutions.

7. How is the House of Representatives structured?

The House of Representatives is structured into four committees:

1. Statutory Committee
2. Standing Committee
3. Ad-hoc Committee
4. Committee of the Whole (Plenary)

8. What are the House of Representatives' Standing Rules?

Article 38 of the Liberian Constitution provides for the Legislature to adopt its own rules of procedure. It states: "Each House shall adopt its own rules of procedures, enforce order, and with the concurrence of two-thirds of the entire membership, may expel a member for cause..."

9. What are the various legislative committees in the House of Representatives?

Legislative committees are established by the Legislature to help in the running of the body. There are Statutory, Standing, and Special (ad-hoc) committees. A sitting or assembly of the Legislature in quorum is referred to as a Plenary or Committee of the Whole, the highest decision-making body of the House and Senate.

10. What are committee hearing processes?

The committee hearing processes are as follows:

Upon receipt of a bill from the Plenary, the Committee Chair instructs his/her Secretary (Chief-of-Office-Staff) to draw up the agenda for the public hearing, which includes a list of witnesses to be invited for the hearing, the time and venue.

The time and venue of the hearings are communicated to the Press and Public Affairs Department for announcement to the public.

- I. (Expert) Witnesses are invited for the hearing.
- II. The Committee's Chair, Co-chair and members, as well as members of the public attend the hearing; *and*
- III. The hearing is held at times using media coverage.

11. What is the Relevance and Functions of Committees?

Committees are organized to decentralize the functions of the Legislature for the purpose of ensuring efficiency and effectiveness. A great deal of the Legislature's work is accomplished through committees. Each legislator serves on several different committees.

12. What is a Conference Committee?

A Conference Committee consists of selected members of both Houses of the Legislature to reach a settlement on a proposed legislation, or disagreement arising between both Houses on a given matter.

13. What is Legislative Session?

A legislative session is the time the Legislature assembles within a legislative term for the purpose of executing its constitutional mandate as provided for under Article 32(a) of the Constitution.

14. What is a Special Session?

A special session is a period when the legislature convenes outside of the normal legislative session in order to complete unfinished tasks for the year or may convene in 'closed door' to address special topics, or emergencies such as natural disasters or security matters.

15. Procedure for Speaking in Session.

As required by parliamentary procedures and applied by our legislature, a lawmaker must be recognized by the presiding officer and may be allotted a specific time in which to speak.

16. How Does the Legislature Track Its Voting Records?

The legislature currently tracks its voting records manually through the Office of the Stenographer. However, modern practice dictates the use of an **electronic voting machine** and overtime institutionalized into an **electronic voting system**. This system is effective given that it guarantees a transparent, secured, accurate and faster vote count, but currently lacking. The legislature currently subscribes to the "Yea" and "Nae" voting system.

17. What are unicameral and bicameral departments?

The main difference between bicameral and unicameral legislatures is that bicameral legislatures pass laws out of two chambers while unicameral legislatures do so out of one. The Liberian Legislature follows a bicameral system by dividing the Legislature into the House of Representatives and the Senate. A unicameral department serves one house, either the House of Representatives or the Senate, while a bicameral department serves both Houses; commonly called a joint service department.

18. What are the functions of the office of the Chief Clerk of the House?

The Chief Clerk is the chief administrative officer of the House of Representatives. He or she serves all 73 members of the House of Representatives. Primary duties include numbering and printing of all legislations introduced, and recording all votes taken on the floor or in session. He/she is assisted by a Deputy Chief Clerk.

19. What are the functions of the Secretary of the Liberian Senate?

The Secretary of the Senate is the chief scribe or copyist, head of administration, and custodian of properties of the Senate.

20. What are the functions of the Legislative Information Service (LIS) and the Legislative Budget Office (LBO)?

The LIS and LBO are bicameral departments of the Legislature. They were established in 2011 under the Legislative Modernization Program (LMP). The Legislative Budget Office was established through an Act of the Legislature in 2010 and became operational in May 2011, while the Legislative Information Service was established by a joint resolution of the Legislature through the Joint Legislative Modernization Committee (JLMC) in 2009 but was inaugurated on April 27, 2011.

The LIS serves as the knowledge-based information center of the Legislature. It comprises three departments and a division, namely:

1. **Research Department:** staff of the Research department in the LIS conduct extensive research for members, staff, and the public.
2. **Library Department:** library staff at the LIS provides (automated) library related services to lawmakers and the public.
3. **Archive Department:** staffers of the Archive manage the repository of the Legislature and provide primarily members and the public information relating to laws, acts and other (international) legislative instruments.
4. **Quality Control Services (QCS) Division:** staffers are trained and disciplined to proofread and edit voluminous documents and ensure every document that leaves the LIS meets (universal) best practices standards.

The departments of Research, Library and Archives are independent departments thus making the LIS a federal-type department. The Directors of the three departments and Deputy for the QCS division in concert with the Office of the Director General ensure the following:

- Ensures that legislators, staff, committees, and members of the public have access to a variety of up-to-date and accurate sources of information about legislative developments on, possibly, any topic.
- Provides reliable legislative research and analysis; *and*
- Assists members with reliable and authoritative information for informed decision-making and improved public policy formulation.

The **Legislative Budget Office (LBO)** is a bicameral, non-partisan, professional & technical arm of the Liberian Legislature in budgeting, financial and monetary matters.

The mission of the Legislative Budget Office is to provide the technical staff support necessary to enable the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and the Legislature to adopt a balanced state budget, and to provide the data processing support necessary to a proper functioning Budget Committee and the Legislature. The Legislative Budget Office serves as the fiscal support agency for both the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and the Legislature. The bicameral legislative support office consists of three functional units, namely:

- **1. Revenue Unit:** Conducts research and provides analysis on tax policy, tax measures, revenue estimates and forecasts.
- **2. Expenditure Unit:** Conducts analysis of government appropriations as against spending and evaluates budget performance by Line Ministries and Agencies.
- **3. Macro-Economic Analysis Unit:** Conducts macro-economic surveys and fiscal impact analysis of legislations. LBO also has an Information Technology Department.

21. How do citizens petition their lawmakers to pass a bill or resolution?

In reference to Article 17 of the Constitution, a bill may emanate from a legislator, the executive or private citizens. A group of citizens who desire of presenting a bill to the legislators can do so through petitioning. The bill is presented in the form of a petition to the Claims and Petition Committee of either House. When presented, the bill must be sponsored by a legislator.

22. How long does a bill or resolution take to be passed?

The time for a bill or resolution to undergo the legislative process depends on several factors. These include but are not limited to the magnitude of the contents of the bill; that is whether more research is required, duration of consultation with stakeholders, number of hearings, and the benefit the bill seeks to derive. Therefore, the duration for a bill or resolution to be passed into law depends on how soon the due process required thereof can be completed. Bills that

have significant public benefit may undergo speedy passage, while others may be delayed due to lack of enough interest, compliance, and checks and balances by interested groups.

23. How does Legislative Committee work/function?

Legislative committee works by providing oversight responsibilities on tasks assigned to it by either the Constitution or legislative rules and reports to the plenary of the House or Senate. Oversight can include requesting officials of government or concerned individuals to provide testimonies on a given matter.

For instance, the Committee on Health provides oversight on all health-related matters and may request stakeholders of the health sector to appear before it and provide testimony when necessary.

24. What does Legislative Break mean?

A legislative break is the time when the Legislature is officially closed for one session as provided for under Article 32 of the Constitution. Traditionally, this break is observed between August to the second working Monday of January, the following year.

Moreover, section one (1) of this law was amended by the 52nd Legislature of the Republic of Liberia to be called “Constituency Break”, which starts 31st of August each year and ends the second working Monday in January of each year. The Legislature, however, may extend this time for any given reason deemed necessary. There are other recess periods observed by the Legislature: Easter Break and that of Independence.

25. What are the functions/workings of Lawmakers during constituency break?

Lawmakers usually use their constituency break to visit and interact with their constituents through town hall meetings, tours to inspect ongoing projects, jointly plan developmental programs and provide annual working reports to their constituents.

26. How do lawmakers provide oversight for community/district projects?

Lawmakers provide oversight by engaging and bringing together stakeholders from their constituencies to identify projects for implementation. They are required to conduct town hall meetings, seek funding for projects and programs in their constituencies, and review and respond to concerns of the people they represent. They also monitor the implementation of projects and programs within their districts and counties.

27. How do lawmakers apportion surplus of revenue collected?

Research has proven that there has been no case of surplus revenues at any time in our fiscal history. However, the Ministry of Finance under Samuel Tweah announced “budget surplus” during the 2019/2020 Budget year, a pronouncement that sparked intense public debates.

28. What is the role of legislators in the management and oversight of the County Social Development Funds (CSDF)?

The role of legislators in the management and oversight of the CSDF is to monitor the performance of activities to ensure that maximum results are achieved. Each county's legislative caucus works closely with the administration of their respective county in ensuring that development programs are initiated and implemented.

29. What are the roles of the lawmakers in the oversight of county sittings?

The scope of the lawmakers' oversight roles at the county sitting are as follows:

1. To guide and supervise the process.
2. To make a report to the delegates.
3. To receive reports from coordinators supervising government programs within the county; *and*
4. To receive and sign resolutions reached by the delegates.

30. Impeachment Power of the Legislature

Article 43 of the Liberian Constitution:

The power to prepare a bill of impeachment is vested solely in the House of Representatives, and the power to try all impeachments is vested solely in the Senate. When the President, Vice President or an Associate Justice is to be tried, the Chief Justice shall preside; when the Chief Justice or a judge of a subordinate court of record is to be tried, the President of the Senate shall preside. No person shall be impeached but by the concurrence of two-thirds of the total membership of the Senate. Judgements in such cases shall not extend beyond removal from office and disqualification to hold public office in the Republic; but the party may be tried at law for the same offense. The Legislature shall prescribe the procedure for impeachment proceedings which shall be in conformity with the requirements of due process of law.

PART II – ADVOCACY TOOLS & STEPS

1. What is Legislative Advocacy?

Legislative advocacy refers to efforts by citizens to influence the introduction, enactment, amendment, or modification of legislation. The most common means of legislative advocacy is direct lobbying, which entails contacting a legislator, sharing one's views on an issue, and asking him or her to vote a specific way on a bill. For instance, the introduction of both the Local Government and Land Rights acts saw a group of CSOs working with lawmakers to ensure the passage.

2. Legislative Advocacy Tools and How to Use Them

A local voting constituent or CSOs advocacy groups have the right to meet and the power to influence the outcome of legislation. The most effective way to affect the outcome of legislations is for advocacy actors to directly communicate their views to lawmakers.

Below are tips on advocacy tool as to how successfully one can communicate with elected officials:

3. MEETING WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR ONE-ON-ONE AT THEIR LOCAL (DISTRICT) OFFICE OR CAPITOL BUILDING

The most effective way to articulate your views to your elected official and to affect the outcome of legislation is, *by far*, to sit down and speak with your lawmaker(s) face-to-face. While these personal visits are extremely productive, they also require the most amount of planning to ensure success.

There is no more effective way to communicate with your legislator than by a face-to-face personal visit. Such visit can be somewhat difficult to arrange with current members of the House of Representatives and Senators. Address your concerns first to lawmakers who represent you, being mindful that you will likely deal first with his/her legislative staff, who often play a key role in this process and have major input regarding the lawmaker's decision.

When planning a personal visit, you may choose to refer to the guidelines that follow:

- **Schedule an appointment.** Elected officials have extremely hectic schedules. Call their district offices in advance to schedule an appointment.
- **Explain how the proposed legislation will directly affect you.** Use specific examples to show your lawmaker how the bill (or proposed measure) will strengthen your rights or benefits; cite these examples to support this position.
- **If your lawmaker is unavailable, meet with his/her staff.** Your representative may not always be available for a meeting. In such case, try to schedule an appointment with the staff member responsible for the related issues. Legislative staff will bring your concerns to your legislator's attention, and often have great influence on legislator's voting decisions, as well as expertise on related issues. Following this meeting, send a letter to the staff member you met with as well as the legislator.
- **Be courteous!** Nothing is more harmful to a visit with a lawmaker than a constituent who is rude, vulgar, or threatening. Be polite at all costs, even if you disagree with the position of your legislator.
- **Dress appropriately.** The proper attire will convey the seriousness of your visit; business suit or traditional attire will be recommended for such a visit.
- **Bring documentation and materials to share with your lawmaker and his staff.** These supporting materials will strengthen your point and serve as valuable reference materials after your meeting has concluded. Example of supporting materials could include photos,

newspapers' stories, minutes from community meetings, letter of support from other groups, video recording, etc.

- **Send a letter in follow-up to your visit.** Regardless of how your meeting goes, send a letter to your legislator thanking him/her for the time, and repeating the points you discussed. This gesture will go a long way, and possibly set the pace for future meetings or engagements.

4. WRITING EFFECTIVE LETTERS

Writing a letter is the most common method of communicating with lawmakers. As a voting constituent, a letter is an easy method for you to let lawmakers know your views on specific issues, encourage them to vote your way, and let them know you will watch how they vote on issues and keep those votes in mind on election day. Personally written letters give you an opportunity to present your position to your lawmakers without interruption. Some basic letter writing tips follow:

- Keep your letter short and to the point (i.e., no more than 1 page).
- Always be courteous!
- Use facts and figures to further enhance your statement and campaign.
- Only make statements you can back-up with evidence.
- State how this legislation you are advocating for affects you personally.
- Reiterate that you live and vote in his/her district or county.
- If you own or operate a business, use your company's letterhead.
- Mention any civic group or organizations you are a member of or associated with.
- Always ask for a response to your letter.

5. E-MAIL

E-mail is becoming an increasingly popular way to communicate to lawmakers. While not all lawmakers can receive e-mail messages, most do, and more elected officials now utilize e-mail. Follow the tips for writing an effective letter when putting together an email but note that this format is usually less formal and allows you to slightly abbreviate your message. A major advantage of e-mail versus a personally written letter is the speed at which your message will be received.

6. EFFECTIVE TELEPHONE CALLS

As a bill moves through the legislative processes, often times, there isn't enough time to write to your legislators in time for them to receive the correspondence, prior to a key vote. When you need to get in touch with your lawmakers immediately to let them know of your position on issues, and if you do not have access to e-mail, your telephone calls become the most effective means for you to communicate your views. There are several tips to use when placing your calls: check in this handbook for the email addresses and contact numbers of your lawmaker.

- **Identify yourself as a constituent.** As someone who lives and votes in the district or county of the lawmaker you are contacting, your phone calls carry the most weight. Calls to lawmakers outside your district or county can be helpful as well. However, be sure to always contact your own lawmakers on issues of concern to your community/electoral district first.
- **State your point quickly and clearly.** Be sure to limit your telephone conversation to one issue concerning the district. Be specific on issues you want your lawmaker to address that will develop your district. *Your phone call should last for at most 5 minutes.*
- **Always be polite and respectful to your lawmaker.** Never threaten or use abusive language.

7. PETITION

Article 17 of the 1986 Constitution states: “All persons, at all times, in an orderly and peaceable manner, shall have the right to assemble and consult upon the common good, to instruct their representatives, to petition the Government or other functionaries for the redress of grievances and to associate fully with others or refuse to associate in political parties, trade unions and other organizations.

Petition is one of the most traditional legislative processes; it is one means by which individuals can directly place requests of grievances before the Legislature. Each sitting day in the House of Representatives, the Clerk reports receipt of petitions from Members.

Important!

Petitions can only be presented to the plenary of either House by and through members of the Legislature. Petitioners should contact their lawmaker to request presentation of their petition.

A Petition MUST:

- Be addressed to the Speaker and Members of the House through the Committee on Claims and Petition. Same for the Senate, addressed to the President Pro tempore and Members.
- Contain the names and addresses of the petitioners and their original signatures.
- State the facts which the petitioners wish to bring to the notice of the House of Representatives (this is the 'grievance').
- Conclude with a request that the House should do, or should not do, something or take some course of action (this is known as the 'prayer'). Each page of a petition seeking signatures must be headed with the words of the request.
- Be clearly written, typed, or printed and not have anything attached to it.
- Be respectful, decorous, and temperate in its language.
- Be in an original document format, not a postcard, leaflet, or the like.

Signatures:

- A petition must contain at least one signature.
- Every signature must be original handwriting, and signatures must not be pasted on, photocopied or transferred in any way.
- Every person signing a petition must write his full address after his signature.

Members' Responsibilities:

- It is the responsibility of the Members to ensure that the petition conforms with the rules;
- Members do not have to agree with/support the subject matter of a petition;
- Members must sign the front sheet of the petition they are presenting and, if applicable, certify that the petition has 500 or more signatures or in certain instances (legally) required number of signatures.

Content - Petition Must NOT:

- Contain irrelevant statements or information, including logos, photos, slogans, etc.;
- Include headings that refer to an individual member, or which contain photographs of a member or similar information judged as 'additional' to the subject of the petition;
- Contain material of a political campaigning nature;
- Be altered in any way from the petition as signed by the petitioners;
- Be signed (as a petitioner) by the Member presenting the petition.

8. ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN – STEP BY STEP

STEP ONE: Define policy issue: Where is change needed?

The issue that your groups or community residents will advocate for must be defined. Ask yourself: what do I want to change within my community? What are the important issues facing my constituency? What do my fellow constituents think is the most important issue? It is generally advisable to focus your work on a selected number of issues that are realistically manageable. Advocates who attempt to fix everything at once run the risk of fixing nothing. Identify the issue that will have the greatest impact and bring about the most significant change to your community.

STEP TWO: Define your objective: What is the change needed?

Your objectives are the changes in legislation that you hope to achieve through your advocacy. These objectives are based on what the community thinks will bring about the most change. Legislative advocacy is a fluid process, and you should be willing to be flexible in your approach and in determining your objectives. To achieve that, here are some tips:

- Set a clear, specific, and realistic goal at the beginning of the advocacy campaign.
- Consider the political environment and the likelihood of success.
- Focus your advocacy primarily on the needs of your community. For example, advocacy for safe drinking water or crime prevention.
- Identify your issue of concern. Find out if there are any resources available to support your efforts.
- Be well informed about the legislative process, who to contact, which committee to target and the issues you are addressing.
- Seek guidance from other actors that have conducted legislative advocacy campaigns and succeeded.

STEP THREE: Define your message: Why is change needed?

- Create a message that is simple, easily understandable as possible. While different members of your group may have different concerns or priorities, your message should be coherent and general.
- The message should not be too technical.
- Don't create too many messages. You may need to refine your message according to your audience's self-interest but the basic principle underlying the message should be the same.
- The message must always be truthful.

STEP FOUR: Develop your strategy: How will change happen?

Your strategy is the critical component of your advocacy campaign. A strategy is a well-thought-out plan of action with concrete steps and activities. Development of a strategy requires a thorough analysis of the issue, the political context, and the general environment. Legislative advocacy often has an **inside strategy** that focuses on directly influencing decision-makers and an **outside strategy** that focuses on creating public awareness, mobilizing those outside the Legislature and those who can influence decision-makers.

9. QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN DEVELOPING YOUR STRATEGY:

- Are there any government policy statements on your advocacy issue?
- Are there legislators interested in your issue? Is there a sub-committee or committee in the legislature that is responsible for your issue?
- Have the political parties taken a position on that issue?
- How can you access policy makers? Are there any formal mechanisms of access?
- What or who influences the government's position on the issues? i.e. businesses, other countries, financial institutions, etc.?
- Is the media influential on the issue? Which media outlet is most influential? Are there particular journalists who cover this issue? Will the media care about this issue?
- How important is public opinion in the political process? Will working on this issue strengthen the role of the public in determining policy?

- Are there particular individuals who could influence this issue, such as educationists, retired government officials, religious or community leaders?

At minimum, your strategy must answer these points:

- What can make objective happen?
- How can you influence those individuals?
- Who will support or oppose you in the effort?

10. Visiting Legislators: Lobbying in person

Talking to an elected official on his or her position in person can be extremely helpful in getting the vote we want on a bill. Forming a delegation that is a two-part community team is also an effective strategy:

Guidelines for lobbying in person include:

1. Find out which legislators are members of the committee that will be hearing the bill.
2. Set up appointments with committee members to discuss the bill. Because of time pressure on legislation, it is often easier for a constituent to get in to see him or her than for a non-constituent.
3. Be honest with the scheduling person on the amount of time you need for the appointment.
4. If a member is unavailable, ask to speak to his or her key aide.
5. Bring materials that can be left with the office to support or summarize your position.
6. When the meeting with the legislator occurs, highlight the bill quickly. List other supporters and discuss the issues that concern the opposition.
7. Stick to the message and try not to get off track.
8. If the legislator doesn't agree, be gracious about the difference in views and ask if there are any amendments that would make the bill acceptable to him or her. If amendments are suggested, take them back to other supporters of the bill. After a decision is made on the amendment, make sure you get back to the member who suggested the amendment. If the member doesn't have suggestions for amendments, thank him or her for the time to listen to your views.

11. Taking Action:

Since executing a successful advocacy campaign can be a long complex process, it may be helpful for CSOs and CBOs to organize their advocacy strategies into individual components. Many CSOs have had success by concentrating efforts on the following elements of a comprehensive campaign:

1. Research and analysis
2. Coalition or alliance building with other civil society organizations, community-based organizations, and non-governmental organizations.
3. Constituency/community mobilization
4. Using the media
5. Influencing legislators
6. Long-term planning
7. Planning for implementation after the advocacy campaign

12. Research and Analysis:

Information is power. Time spent gathering information on the legislative process in the beginning can help you avoid simple mistakes and save you time in the long run. The more you understand the formal rules and procedures of the decision-making process, the more power you will have to influence it.

Information on your issue is important to understanding the process. The initial step in any campaign is informing decision-makers about why your issue is important. The more compelling details you can provide, the more likely you are to raise interest in your issue. You should also undertake an inventory of what resources and advantages you have that will help the campaign:

- Collect detailed information, statistics, research, testimonies, and other important information on your issue, the quality and amount of information you are able to provide to decision-makers directly influences the amount of credibility you will have.
- If a draft law exists, obtain it, read and analyze it. If possible, learn the history of the draft law.
- If the issue has been before the legislature in the past, research what happened and focus on what impeded the process, if any.
- Read and analyze other laws that relate to your issue.
- Anticipate and know the arguments against your position and develop responses that address those arguments. Use reason and facts to persuade.
- Anticipate and take advantage of situations as they arise by having the information needed to predict potential events.
- Develop a list of how others, including legislators, will benefit from supporting your issue or position.
- Identify those decision-makers who will likely support your position or take an interest in the issue.

13. Using the Media:

The media can be very influential in setting the (government) agenda by drawing attention to your issue and raising public awareness. Media, by its nature, reaches audiences that may be difficult or impossible for you to reach on your own. Public officials who are unresponsive may find it necessary to respond to public pressure created by media coverage.

- Provide clear and factual evidence to the media in a timely manner.
- The media's attention span is short. Be quick in responding, but also carefully consider your responses.
- Develop good relationship with the reporters responsible for your issue or for covering the legislature.
- Consider using press releases, background briefings, letters to the editors and opinion pieces. Remember that for these efforts to be successful, you may need a news hook, such as a timely event, a public policy conflict that is in the news or some other link to a hot topic or controversy.

14. Influencing Legislators or Other Policymakers:

One of the most important moments in any advocacy campaign is the short time you must interact one-on-one with a policymaker. To make the best use of this time, prepare well in advance and prepare for the worst-case scenario.

- Determine what information you want to highlight in your meeting, the purpose of the meeting and what outcomes you hope to achieve.
- Before the meeting, send an advance position paper or information to help present your issue. Keep the information to a manageable length. Send documentation a few days before the meeting so the individual has time to read it, but do not assume that it has been read. Bring extra copies to the meeting.
- If possible, know the position of the policy makers before the meeting. It can be helpful to role play with each other activists in preparation for the meeting, and to anticipate questions or concerns that the representative may have.
- Develop a concise and understandable message to be delivered at the meeting. It should not take you longer than three minutes to deliver your message and it should include your specific desired action for the legislator to take. Practice delivering your message.
- If more than one person attends the meeting, make very short introductions, and explain the role of each individual in the meeting.
- Listen to what the policy maker is saying and, if possible, address any concerns or questions in your position.
- If you do not have the information requested or needed, offer to send it. Make sure you send the information you have offered.
- Be aware that the meeting is not the only opportunity to influence a decision-maker.

- Follow up on all meetings with a letter of thanks that outlines any understandings or commitments that were agreed upon at the meeting and repeat your message.
- Keep in touch with supportive individuals.

PART III: DECLARATION ON PARLIAMENTARY OPENNESS

Executive Summary/ Purpose

The Declaration on Parliamentary Openness is a call to national parliaments, and sub-national and transnational legislative bodies, by civil society parliamentary monitoring organizations (PMOs) for an increased commitment to openness and to citizen engagement in parliamentary work. PMOs are increasingly recognized for the important role they play in making parliamentary information more accessible to citizens, strengthening the capacity of citizens to participate in parliamentary processes, and improving parliamentary accountability.

While PMOs have a strong interest in advocating for greater access to government and parliamentary information, they also recognize the need for increased collaborative dialogue with the world's parliaments on issues of parliamentary reform. The Declaration is intended not only as a call to action, but also as a basis for dialogue between parliaments and PMOs to advance government and parliamentary openness, and to ensure that this openness leads to greater citizen engagement, more responsive representative institutions and, ultimately, a more democratic society.

PART IV: KNOW YOUR LAWMAKERS (ELECTED OFFICIALS, ASSIGNED COMMITTEES & CONTACTS)

	ELECTED OFFICIAL	COUNTY/DISTRICT	COMMITTEE	CONTACT NUMBER	EMAIL
1	Sen. Henrique F. Tokpa	Bong County	Chair , Autonomous Commissions, Member , Executive, Defense, Intelligence, Security & Veteran Affairs, Transport.	0886753642	htokpa@gmail.com
2	Sen. Prince K. Moye	Bong County	Chair , Education & Public Administration Co-Chair , Ways, Means, Finance & Budget, Member , Posts and Telecom, Banking & Currency, Public Works & Rural Development, Commerce, Trade & Industry.	0777574978/ 0886574978	moyeprince@yahoo.com
3	Rep. Albert B. Hills Jr.	Bong County/D. 1	Chair , Public Utilities; Member , Peace, Religion & National Reconciliation.	0886888814 /0777888814	albertbhillsjrd1@gmail.com
4	Rep. James Kolleh	Bong County/D. 2	Will be inducted when open.		
5	Rep. Josiah Marvin Cole	Bong County/D. 3	Co-Chair , Rules, Order and Administration; Member , Ways, Means, Finance & Budget	0886529267	jorquelledistrict3@gmail.com
6	Rep. Robert F. Womba	Bong County/D. 4	Co-Chair , Transport; Member , Foreign Affairs; Human & Civil Rights; Gender Equity, Child Development & Social Services	0777552620/ 0886552620	robertwomba@yahoo.com
7	Rep. Edward W. Karfiah	Bong County/D. 5	Chair , Public Account and Expenditure; Member , Good Governance & Government Reform; Modernization	0886547600	e.karfiah@yahoo.com

8	Rep. Moima Briggs-Mensah	Bong County/ D. 6	Co-Chair , Posts and Telecom, Member State Enterprises, & Autonomous Commissions, African Parliamentary Union (APU).	0886510222/ 0776510222	moima.4salala@gmail.com
9	Rep. Joseph P. Kolleh	Bong County/ D. 7	Member , Human & Civil Rights; Banking and Currency; Claims & petitions; Member of Delegation , Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU).	0886406973/ 0777310165	jpkolleh2018@gmail.com
10	Sen. Cllr. Morris G. Saytumah	Bomi County	Chair , Ways, Means, Finance and Budget; Co-Chair , Youth & Sport; Co-Chair , Maritime. Member , Executive; Public Works & Rural Development; Lands, Mines, Energy & Natural Resources & Banking & Currency	0886511697/ 0777511697	saytulink@yahoo.com
11	Sen. Edwin M. Snowe, Jr.	Bomi County	Chair , Foreign Affairs, Co-Chair , Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, Member , ECOWAS Parliamentary Delegation	0777660800	snowedwin@aol.com
12	Rep. Finda Alice Gborie Lansanah	Bomi County/D. 1	No available data	0776558880	districtsenjah@gmail.com
13	Rep. Manah B. Johnson, Jr.	Bomi County/D. 2	Chair , Internal Affairs; Member , Rules, Order & Administration; Ways, Means, Finance & Development Planning; Peace, Religion & National Reconciliation; Contracts, Monopolies,	0886478350/ 0776577384	mjohnsonjr2017@yahoo.com
14	Rep. Haja Fata Siryon	Bomi County/D. 3	Chair , Maritime Affairs; Member, ECOWAS Delegation; Member, Executive; Commerce &	0886580493	hajafatasiryon@yahoo.com

			Industry; Transport; Member of ECOWAS Parliament		
15	Sen. Cllr. H. Varney G. Sherman	Grand Cape Mount Co	Chair , Judiciary, Human Rights, Claims and Petitions; Member , Foreign Affairs; Ways, Means, Finance & Budget; Maritime; Concession & Investment; Labor; Lands, Mines, Energy, Natural Resources & Environment; Social Security, Pensions & Insurance	0886511734 / 0777511734	varneysherman@gmail.com
16	Sen. Simon B. Taylor	Grand Cape Mount Co	Chair , Lands, Mines, Energy, Natural Resources & Environment, Member , Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries; Defense, Intelligence, Security & Veteran Affairs, Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries,	0777525261	Simonb1975@gmail.com
17	Rep. Bob H. Sheriff	Gd. Cape Mount/ D. 1	Co-Chair , Elections, and Inauguration; Member , Public Utilities; Post & Telecommunications; Lands, Mines, Natural Resources & Environment; Peace, Religion & Reconciliation	0886556442/ 0777151618	bobbyharley37@gmail.com
18	Rep. Mambu M. Sonii	Gd. Cape Mount/ D. 2	Member , Ways, Means, Finance & Budget; Hydrocarbon; Internal Affairs; Resettlement, Repatriation, Relief & Re-adjustment; Peace, Religion & National Reconciliation	0886432292	bhmsonii04@yahoo.com
19	Rep. Emmerson V. Kamara	Gd. Cape Mount/ D. 3	Chair , Transport; Member , Investment & Concessions;	0886488840/ 0776892993	rep.emersonk@yahoo.com

20	Sen. Daniel F. Naatehn	Gbarpolu County	Chair , Transport; Co-Chair , Health; Member , Ways, Means, Finance & Budget; Internal Affairs, Governance & Reconciliation; Concession & Investment; Youth & Sports	0886513285	dfnaatehn@yahoo.com
21	Sen. Botoe Kanneh	Gbarpolu County	Chair , Gender, Social Welfare and Women & Children Affairs; Member , Executive; Foreign Affairs; Rules, Order & Administration; Defense, Intelligence, Security & Veteran Affairs; Public Works & Rural Development; Commerce, Trade & Industry; Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries; Autonomous Commissions; Lands, Mines, Energy, Natural Resources & Environment;	0888353335/ 0778573139	botoekanneh@gmail.com
22	Rep. Alfred G. Koiwood	Gbarpolu County/ D. 1	Chair , National Security; Member , National Defense	0886558392/ 0770558392	agkoiwood71@yahoo.com
23	Rep. Cllr. A. Kanie Wesso	Gbarpolu County/ D. 2	Chair , Judiciary; Member , Public Utilities;	0886518474	wessokanie@gmail.com
24	Rep. Joseph M. Matthews, Jr	Gbarpolu County/ D.3	Member , Ways, Means, Finance & Development Planning; Labor; Post & Telecommunication; Peace, Religion, & National Reconciliation.	0886536252/ 0777563389	matthewfairplayjoe@gmail.com
25	Sen. Stephen H. J. Zargo	Lofa County	Chair , Defense, Intelligence, Security & Veteran Affairs; Co-Chair , Social Security, Pensions & Insurance Member of ECOWAS Parliamentary Delegation; Judiciary, Human Rights, Claims and Petitions; Public Works & Rural Development;	0886512246 /0777434272	szargo@yahoo.com

26	Sen. Unknown	Lofa County	Co-Chair , Education & Public Administration, Member , Ways, Means, Finance & Budget, Gender, Social Welfare and Women & Children Affairs;		
27	Rep. Francis S. Nyumalin, Sr.	Lofa County/ D. 1	Member , Internal Affairs; Peace, Religion, & National Reconciliation; Public Works & Rural Development; Internal Affairs;	0777515287/ 0886515287	fsnyumalin60@yahoo.com
28	Rep. Julie Fatorma- Wiah	Lofa County/ D. 2	Member , Executive, Ways, Means, Finance & Development Planning; Health; State Enterprises & Autonomous Commissions; Member of Pan Africa Parliament Delegation.	0777511375/ 0888511375	jenfordinc@yahoo.com
29	Rep. Clarence K. Massaquoi	Lofa County/ D. 3	Chair , Investment & Concessions; Member , Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries. Member , ECOWAS Delegation;	0888966966	vikingcapitol@yahoo.co.uk
30	Rep. Mariamu B. Fofana	Lofa County/ D. 4	Chair , Education & Public Administration; Member , Gender Equity, Child Development & Social Services; Resettlement, Repatriation, Relief & Adjustment; Human & Civil Right; Modernization;	0770306132	miriamum43@gmail.com
31	Rep. Cllr. Beyan D. Howard	Lofa County/ D. 5	Co-Chair , Judiciary; Co- Chair , Information, Broadcasting, Culture Affairs & Tourism; Member , Maritime Affairs	0777515649/ 0886515649	zorlayea2017@gmail.com

32	Sen. Prince Y. Johnson	Nimba County	Member Executive; Commerce, Trade & Industry; Labor; Social Security, Pensions & Insurance; Labor; Gender, Social Welfare and Women & Children Affairs	07776630004	princejohnson1952@yahoo.com
33	Sen. Jeremiah Kpan Koug	Nimba County	Chair , Post and Telecommunication; Co- Chair , Public Accounts & Audits, Co- Chair , Public Works & Rural Development; Member , Ways, Means, Finance & Budge; Health	08865115122/ 0770511512	jeremiahkpankoug@yahoo.com
34	Rep. Samuel N. Brown Sr.	Nimba County/D. 1	Member , Public Utilities, Youth & Sports, Human & Civil Rights	0880211683 / 07765661199	Bersamfosnb1@gmail.com
35	Rep. Prince O.S Tokpah	Nimba County/D. 2	Chair , Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Member , National Defense; Good Governance, & Government Reform; Internal Affairs;	0886451534/ 0770451534	postokpah@gmail.com
36	Rep. Joseph Nyan Somwarbi	Nimba County/D. 3	Chair , Health; Member Judiciary; Education & Public Administration	0886416861/ 0776313763	jnsomwarbi@gmail.com
37	Rep. Gunpue L. Kargon	Nimba County/D. 4	Chair , Claims & Petitions; Co-Chair , Resettlement, repatriation, Relief & Re-Adjustment, Member , Information, Broadcasting, Culture Affairs & Tourism; Gender Equity, Child Development & Social Services	0886445444	gunpuekargon2015@gmail.com

38	Rep. Samuel Gongben Kogar	Nimba County/D. 5	Chair , Commerce, and Industry; Co-Chair , National Security; Member , Information, Broadcasting, Culture Affairs & Tourism; Modernization	0886515790/ 0770118868	samuelkogar@yahoo.com
39	Rep. Dorwohn T. Gleekia	Nimba County/D. 6	Chair , Peace, Religion, & National Reconciliation, Co- Chair , Labor, Member , Ways, Means, Finance & Development planning	0777444066	dorwohn@yahoo.com
40	Rep. Roger S.W.Y Domah	Nimba County/D. 7	Chair , Human & Civil Rights; Member Transport; Claims & Petitions; Member of Delegation : Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU)	0886583257/ 0770188124	daddyrog11@yahoo.com
41	Rep. Larry P. Younquoi	Nimba County/D. 8	Chair , Good Governance and Government Reform; Member , Board of trustees University of Liberia; Head of Delegation African Parliamentary Union (APU)	0886547921/ 0777547921	lyounquoi@gmail.com
42	Rep. Dr. Johnson N. Gwaikolo	Nimba County/D. 9	Chair , Rules, Order & Administration. Co-chair Public Works and Rural Development	0886513464/ 0777513464	j.n.gwaikolo@gmail.com
43	Sen. A. Marshall Dennis	Grand Gedeh County	Chair , Banking and Currency; Member , Social Security, Pension & Insurance; Rules, Order & Administration; Commerce, Trade & Industry; Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries; Concessions and Investment;	0880546505	amarshalldennis@yahoo.com

44	Sen. Zoe Emmanuel Pennue	Grand Gedeh County	Chair , Social Security, Pensions & Insurance; Member , Defense, Intelligence, Security & Veteran Affairs; Internal Affairs, Governance & Reconciliation; Public Works & Rural Development	0886532191	teiagbay@gmail.com
45	Rep. Erol Madison Gwion	Grand Gedeh County/ D. 1	Member , Human & Civil Rights;		
46	Rep. Dr. George E. S. Boley	Grand Gedeh County/ D. 2	Co-Chair , Education & Public Administration; Member, Judiciary; Ways, Means, Finance & Development Planning; Public Works, & Rural Development;	0880902544	tgbailee@gmail.com
47	Rep. Alex Chersia Grant	Grand Gedeh County/ D. 3	Chair , State Enterprises, Commission & Autonomous Agencies; Member of Pan Africa Parliament Delegation.	0886536707/ 0776536707	grantalex68@yahoo.com
48	Sen. Conmany B. Wesseh	River Gee County	Chair , Youth and Sports; Chair , Modernization Project; Co-Chair , Foreign Affairs; Co-Chair , Gender, Social Welfare and Women & Children Affairs.	0886531528	conmanybwesseh1@yahoo.com
49	Sen. Jothanna B. Sogbie	River Gee County	Chair , Information, Broadcasting, Culture & Tourism; Member , Rules, Order & Administration, Ways, Means, Finance & Budget, Public Works & Rural Development, Concession & Investment, Lands, Mines, Energy & Natural Resources, Youth	0777518385 /0885518385	jonsogbie@gmail.com

			& Sports, Post and Telecommunication; Information, Broadcasting, Culture & Tourism;		
50	Rep. Alexander Poure	River Gee County/ D. 1	Co-Chair , Lands, Mines, Natural Resources and Environment; Member , Executive; Youth & Sports;	0886911106	alexpoure@yahoo.com
51	Rep. Francis Saywon Young	River Gee County/ D. 2	Co. Chair , Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries; Member , Labor; Maritime Affairs; Peace, Religion & National Reconciliation;	0770911106	youngfrancis67@gmail.com
52	Rep. Francis S. Dopoh, II.	River Gee County/ D. 3	Co. Chair, Public Utilities; Co. Chair , Modernization; Member , Election & Inauguration; Ways, Means, Finance & Development Planning	0886905604	fdopoh@gmail.com
53	Sen. Albert T. Chie	Grand Kru County	PRO-TEMPORE, Liberian Senate	0886515653	atugchie@yahoo.com
54	Sen. Numene T. H. Bartekwa	Grand Kru County	Chair , Concession and Investment, Co-Chair Post and Telecommunication; Member , Judiciary, Human Rights, Claims and Petitions; Ways Means, Finance & Budget, Rules, Order,	0777516719/ 0886516719	nthbartekwa@Yahoo.com
55	Rep. Nathaniel N. Bahway, Sr.	Grand Kru County/ D. 1	Co-Chair Internal Affairs Member , Ways, Means, Finance & Development Planning; Rules, Order & Administration;	0880277283	bahway1959@gmail.com
56	Rep. Cllr. Jonathan Fonatti Koffa	Grand Kru County/ D. 2	DEPUTY SPEAKER, Honorable House of Representatives; Member , Good Governance & Government Reform; Elections & Inauguration	0777111119	jfk2007@gmail.com

57	Sen. J. Gbleh-bo Brown	Maryland County	Chair , Internal Affairs, Good Governance and Reconciliation; Co-Chair , Banking & Currency; Co-Chair , Public Corporation; Member , Rules, Order & Administration; Ways Means, Finance & Budget; Health; Public Accounts & Audits;	0886518054/ 0776660692	manolu59@yahoo.com
58	Sen. James Biney	Maryland County	Member , Public Accounts & Audits; Post and Telecommunications; Defense, Intelligence, Security & Veteran Affairs	0777525916 / 0880525916	Jamesbiney0903@gmail.com
59	Rep. P. Mike Jurry	Maryland County/ D. 1	Member , Ways, Means, Finance & Development Planning; Education & Public Administration; Information, Broadcasting, Culture Affairs;	0886566959	pmikejurry@gmail.com
60	Rep. Dr. Bhofal Chambers	Maryland County/ D. 2	SPEAKER, Honorable House of Representatives	088631112	
61	Rep. Dr. Isaac B. Roland	Maryland County/ D. 3	Chair , Posts & Telecommunications; Co-Chair , Peace Religion & National Reconciliation	0886517225	isaac3858@yahoo.com
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