

WRITE ACTION CIRCLES

Writers for Democratic Action: MN <https://writersfordemocraticactionmn.org>

According to the ACLU: “Letters and emails are an extremely effective way of communicating with your elected officials. Many legislators believe a letter represents not only the position of the writer but also many other constituents who did not take the time to write.”

WHAT / WHY

A Write Action Circle is a group of people committed to conveying their opinions about current events to leaders in order to influence decisions, and to meet together periodically to exchange ideas and rally commitment.

The main task of each person in a Circle is to take action: write, email, or call leaders such as Congresspersons, members of the MN Statehouse, top officials in government, etc. and express their opinion on specific issues that the group takes on.

The group may also play a role in encouraging more people to stay abreast of issues and opportunities in order to shape the direction of political events by writing newspaper editorials, posting on social media sites, starting new Write Action Circles, writing friends to get them involved, and more.

HOW TO START AND MAINTAIN A WRITE ACTION CIRCLE

Basic steps that can be adjusted to your capacity as a facilitator and to each group’s unique makeup:

1. Invite writers / friends to make a circle with you and ask them what current issues concern them. The need for ICE accountability? The many problems with SAVE? (Start small, from 5-10, and grow, maintain the initial group size at 5-10), or begin big, with a Zoom-full of folks!)
2. Make certain people can commit to regular but brief Zoom meetings where they will bond to 1-2 issues and, at the next meeting, report on what they did. Then take new issues, and so on in a continuing cycle.
3. Encourage everyone in your Circle to also join Writers for Democratic Action MN as a source of information and also to strengthen the Circle’s sponsor.

4. Prepare a short overview of 2 issues that seem pressing, and make it easy for everyone to write, email, or call leaders by providing an “Issue Prep Sheet” with:
 - names and contact info of those who can do something about the issue, i.e. depending on the issue, congress members, MN State Attorney General, etc.
 - short sample letter
 - any other pertinent information, such as, in some cases, a deadline for public input.

ATTACHED IS A SAMPLE ISSUE PREP SHEET

8. Set a first Zoom meeting for 45 minutes in order to:
 - introduce all
 - reiterate purpose of Write Action Circles
 - respond to questions about Circles and/or the 2 issues
 - confirm meeting schedule. (Proposed: every two weeks at a set time, no more than a half hour.)
 - at meeting’s end, everyone should leave the meeting ready to write and to report in at the next meeting

OTHER IDEAS FOR FACILITATORS

1. Although at first you’ll be making Issue Prep. Sheets, soon you may ask members to take turns doing this.
2. To save yourself time in making the Issue Prep. Sheets, scan the Internet, use the suggestions from the website “Americans of Conscience,” and perhaps exchange sheets with other facilitators once we get a number of Circles going.
3. Some of the “test” Circle members said that an important reason for their participation in the Circle (rather than simply writing letters on their own), is that Issue Prep Sheets make it easier, and that the accountability of a brief report-out to the group assures they will keep going.
4. Sending out “good news,” when you have it, is a lift for the group.
5. The “test” Circle group also decided to sometimes write leaders who have been leading in an admirable way, and thank them.

6. Having members from beyond MN poses an extra challenge for the facilitator when an issue and response is specific to MN, such as writing our Secretary of State to thank him for holding the line and not sharing MN voter rolls.
7. If a group happened to grow very large in participant number, perhaps someone from the group will start a new Circle. Soon thousands of letters will be flying off to influence leaders!
8. Although these ideas above have been right for the first Circle formed, you may be making changes that work for you and your members. For example, perhaps your group will dedicate itself completely to writing letters-to-the-editor, or you may choose to focus only on Minnesota issues and communicate primarily with your state senator and representative.

For more information, to get involved, or to offer input into this project:
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EXAMPLE: ISSUE PREP SHEET

WRITE ACTION CIRCLE

Feb. 15, 2026

Issue 1: Protect voters' private information in Minnesota

For more information on this dangerous possibility, check out

Brennan Center for Justice

The Department of Justice has [demanded full voter rolls](#) from [44 states and DC](#), including driver's license numbers and social security numbers. This demand has no basis in federal law and violates many state laws. Most states have refused to comply or have provided only the publicly available versions of their voter files. The [DOJ has sued](#) 24 of these jurisdictions in response. The 10 states that turned over the full voter lists [have agreed](#) to remove voters from the lists at the federal government's request within 45 days, which violates the National Voter Registration Act.

The DOJ plans to conduct its own analysis of states' voter files and then instruct the states to remove specific voters, which the federal government has never done before. This would turn the American system of election administration upside down. It is the states, not the federal government, that have the [statutory](#) authority — not to mention the expertise — to add and remove voters from the rolls. States also have [procedures in place](#) to guard against eligible voters being wrongly removed.

Action

MN Secretary of State has resisted the DOJ's unprecedented request. Write him to thank him/ let him know you support his decision.

Minnesota Secretary of State, Steve Simon, at secretary.state@state.mn.us , or write him at Steve Simon, Minnesota Secretary of State
Veterans Service Building, Suite 210
20 W 12th Street
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Sample letter

Hello, I'm _____ from _____ (calling or writing) to thank you for not turning over full voter rolls to the Department of Justice. I urge you to remain steadfast in resisting this unprecedented federal overreach.

Also, if you have friends in other states, alert them to this issue, and ask that they, too, become involved in resisting the federal government's attempt to take over elections.