

Writing a Letter to the Editor

The letter to the editor section of your local newspaper is an ideal forum for making your case on an issue to your neighbors and legislators. Here are a few guidelines for getting your letter to the editor printed.

- Keep your letter short and only address one subject —250 words is a good length.
- Use short, punchy sentences and avoid big words. A catchy first line is helpful, too.
- Personalize your letter—tell a story. Explain how the issue has affected or will affect you.
- When possible, mention a related article already printed by the paper. This increases the chances that your letter will be published. Mention the article in your first sentence.
- Write with the average person in mind, and use phrases and arguments that resonate with them.
- Don't repeat claims made by opponents on your issue.
- Be as factual as you can, but use statistics sparingly because they can get boring, confusing, and overwhelming very quickly.
- Send letters to weekly community newspapers, too. Sometimes it is easier to get your letter printed there and it is likely that your legislators read the local weekly papers.
- Encourage your friends and neighbors to write letters to the editor as well.
- Sending the letter to your legislator or to members of the appropriate legislative committee can also be effective.
- Include your full name, address, and telephone number. The newspaper will contact you before they print the letter to verify that you are the author.

Portland Press Herald: 300-word maximum
Email: letterstotheeditor@mainetoday.com
Phone: 791-6485

Morning Sentinel: 300-word maximum
Email: letters@centralmaine.com
Phone: 873-3341

Bangor Daily News: 250-word maximum
Email: letters@bangordailynews.com
Phone: 990-8203

Sun Journal: 250-word maximum
Email: letters@sunjournal.com
Phone: 784-5411

Kennebec Journal: 300-word maximum
Email: letters@centralmaine.com
Phone: 621-5665

Times Record: 350-word maximum
Email: letters@timesrecord.com
Phone: 504-8209



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