Researching Policies & Initiatives

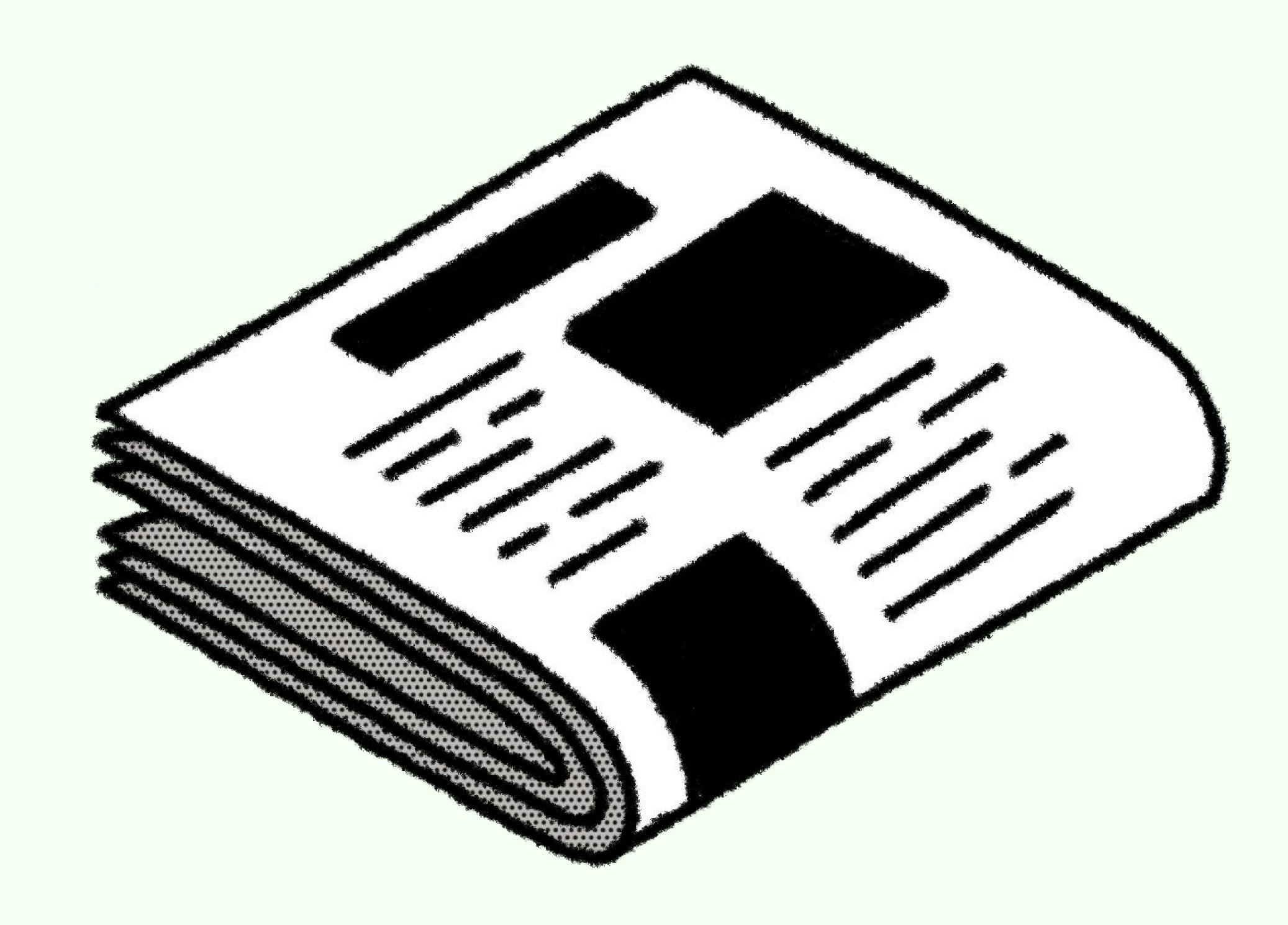
Learn how to research policies that impact your community, engage and learn to make meaningful contributions.



O1 Start with Local News

Your local newspaper is oftentimes an overlooked treasure trove of information about issues affecting your community. Focus on regional and/or neighborhood issues that impact your daily life.

PRO TIP: SCAN THE PAPER WEEKLY TO STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH ANY ISSUES OR EVENTS THAT MATTER TO YOU.



O2 Government Websites

Local government websites offer a wealth of information including public programs, meeting minutes, news updates and any official documents. Navigate all of these resources to find important dates.

PRO TIP: BOOKMARK YOUR CITY/COUNTY'S GOVERNMENT WEBSITE FOR QUICK ACCESS TO IMPORTANT POLICY UPDATES.

O3 Attend Public Meetings

Public meetings are key to understanding the discussions that shape communities. Attend local government meetings or any public hearings to experience first-hand how policies are formed.

ACTION: CHECK OUT GROUPS THAT HOST PUBLIC MEETINGS AT A LOCAL LEVEL.

PRO TIP: MEETING AGENDAS ARE POSTED IN ADVANCE, CHECK FOR POLICY DISCUSSIONS THAT INTEREST YOU.

O4 Connect with Local Leaders

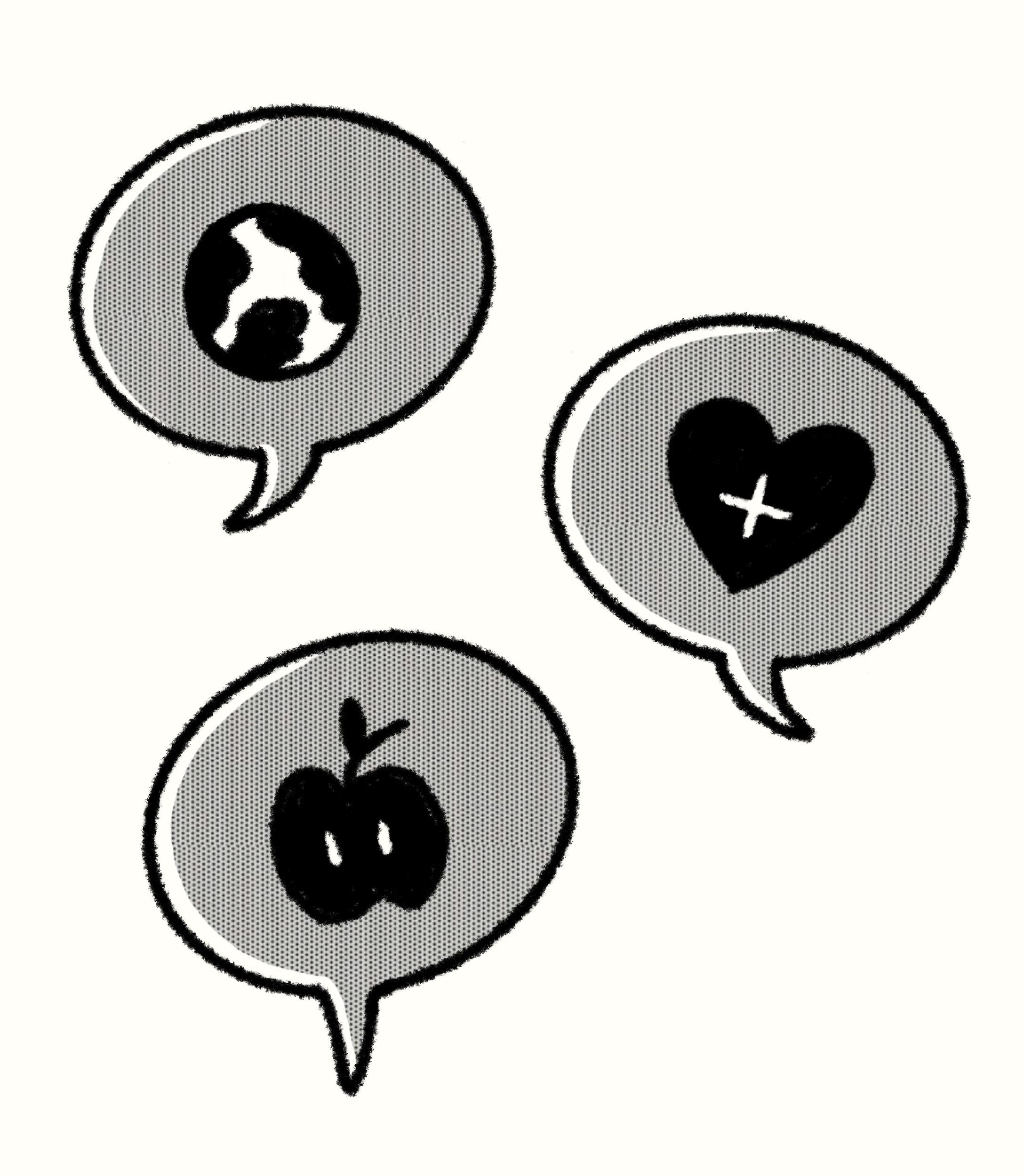
Local representatives are often accessible and want to hear from their constituents. Building relationships with them can give you valuable insights into policy creation and the political process

PRO TIP: REACH OUT FOR INFORMAL COFFEE MEETINGS TO DISCUSS TOPICS LIKE: CLIMATE HEALTHCARE & EDUCATION

OS Non-Profits & Organizations

Many nonprofits and advocacy groups are focused on local policy issues. These organizations can often provide valuable insights and may direct you to volunteer opportunities.

PRO TIP: SEARCH FOR ADVOCACY GROUPS & NON PROFITS FOCUSING ON EDUCATION, CLIMATE CHANGE, OR HEALTHCARE.



KEY TAKEWAYS

- Start with accessible sources of information: newspapers and government sites.
- Attend meetings! Connect with local leaders to stay engaged in the policy process.
- Research is an ongoing process—keep revisiting these steps as policies evolve.

ADDITIONAL TIPS

- Stay Consistent: Make it a habit to engage regularly with local news sources and government channels.
- Get Involved: Don't just research participate! Attend town halls or volunteer with organizations actively engage in the political process.

RESOURCES

- -> INFOGRAPHICS
- -> CIVICS 101
- -> LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEBSITES