## Researching Policies & Initiatives

Learn how to research policies that impact your community, understand the political landscape, and engage with your local government to make meaningful contributions.

Read Your Local Paper

Your local newspaper can be an overlooked treasure trove of information. Focus on regional and neighborhood issues that impact your daily.

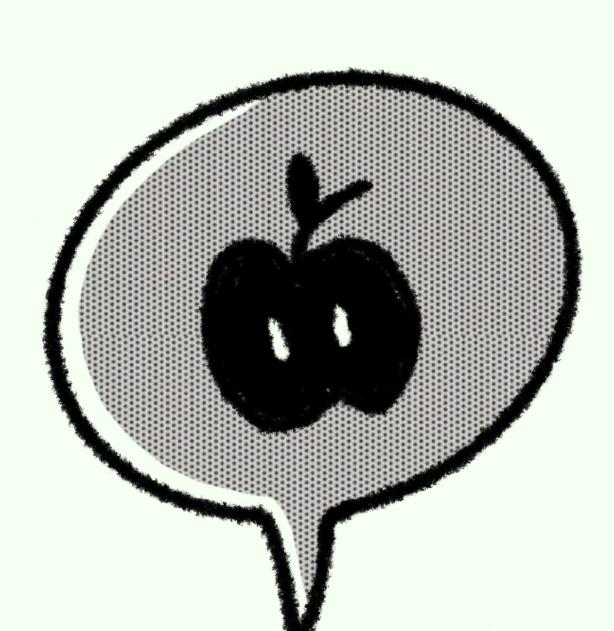
TIP: SCAN THE PAPER WEEKLY TO STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH SPECIFIC ISSUES THAT MATTER TO YOU.

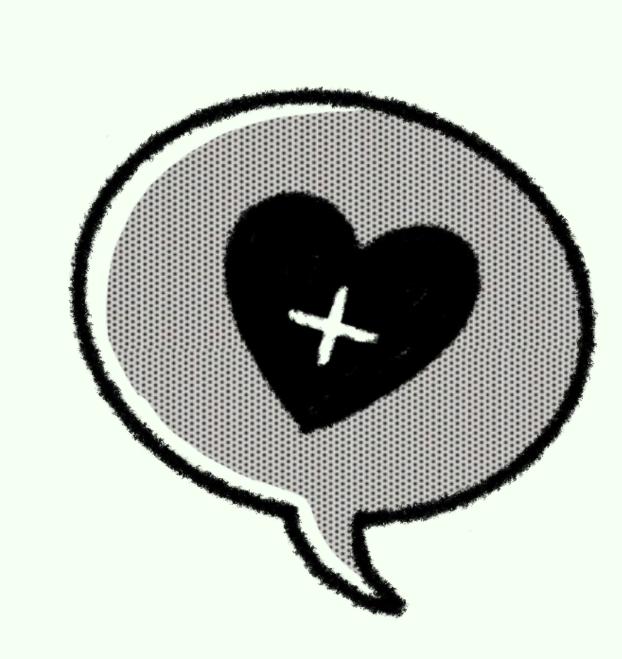
**C2** Local Non Profits & Organizations

Many organizations focus on community issues. These groups often have valuable resources and may direct you to volunteer opportunities and further research.

**ACTION: SEARCH FOR ANY ADVOCACY GROUPS AND** NONPROFITS IN YOUR AREA, FOCUSING ON TOPICS LIKE: EDUCATION, CLIMATE & HEALTHCARE.







Company Local Websites & Social Media

Local government websites offer a wealth of information including meeting minutes, existing public programs, official documents and local news updates.

**ACTION: BOOKMARK YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT SITE** AND CHECK IT REGULARLY FOR UPDATES.



O4 Public Meetings & Hearings

Public meetings are key to understanding the discussions that shape your community. Attend local government meetings or public hearings to hear first-hand what's being debated and how policies are formed.

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

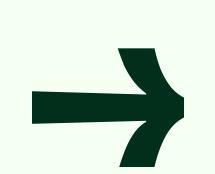
**ACTION: INVOLVE YOURSELF WITH GROUPS THAT HOST** PUBLIC MEETINGS AT COUNTY, CITY AND DISTRICT LEVELS. INCLUDING: SCHOOL BOARDS & ADVISORY BOARDS.

Local Leaders & Representatives

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

ACTION: SCHEDULE A MEETING OR COFFEE WITH YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL MEMBERS OR CITY LEADERS TO DISCUSS ISSUES THAT MATTER TO YOU. LOOK TO SEE IF THEY HAVE A NEWSLETTER YOU CAN SUBSCRIBE TO.

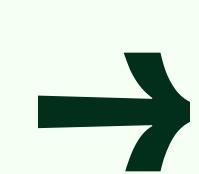
## KEYTAKEWAYS



Start with accessible, local sources of information such as newspapers and government websites.



Attend meetings and connect with local leaders to stay engaged with the policy process.



Research is an ongoing process — keep revisiting these steps as your local policies evolve.

C Engagement Tips&Tricks

STAY CONSISTENT: Make it a habit to engage with local news sources and government channels.

GET INVOLVED: Don't just research — participate! Volunteer with organizations or attend town halls to actively engage in the local political process.



