



## Advocating for Change DIY Project

### Civic Circle Area: Voice

*The impact of COVID-19 continues to change our daily lives and routines, but volunteering and civic engagement are just as important as ever. This project can be modified to adhere to social distancing guidelines set by local and national authorities, to do virtually or to do at home and deliver via mail or drop off.*

2016 Hasbro Community Action Hero Paloma Rabana, who is legally blind, recognized a gap in services for visually impaired 6- to 13-year-olds in Florida. She led two rallies at the Capitol, wrote an op-ed and lobbied the Florida legislature. Do the same for a cause you're passionate about!

**NOTE:** If you need to stay inside due to social distancing guidelines, use this time to plan all parts of your project. You can also use social media to spread the word about your project, hold video calls with people to discuss your issues, and call or email your legislator's office.

### What You Need:

- A list of your local legislators.
- Permission to host a rally in a public place, like your state capitol, county commission or library.
- Butcher paper and markers for posters.
- Clipboard, notepad and pens to collect attendees' contact information, or use a tablet or designate a volunteer with a phone or tablet to collect contact information.
- Optional: A bullhorn or microphone.

### Steps:

1. Research the issue you are passionate about impacting. Understand what changes you wish to see.
2. Pick a date, time and venue to host your rally. If you are meeting in a public space, make sure you have permission to gather before the date of the event.
3. Invite friends and community members to support your cause and attend the rally. Encourage participants to wear matching shirts and pins.
4. Meet with your local legislator. Make an appointment with their office to explain what you are hoping to accomplish and invite them to your rally. Leave something for them to remember you (ex. your own personal story or a photo of a loved one impacted by the issue).
5. Host a poster-making party before the event and make eye-catching signs for participants to hold.
6. At your rally, ask for help to support your cause, whether through state financial support, a letter writing campaign or volunteerism.
7. Collect the attendees' contact information so you can follow up with them afterwards.



8. Thank your participants for their support.
9. Brainstorm ways to continue to get the word out. For example: Write an article about the issue, use social media to increase awareness, organize more events or partner with organizations doing similar work.

**Reflection Questions:**

- How would you feel if you or a loved one was impacted by your issue?
- How does it feel to rally and educate people about an important issue?
- What can you do to help raise additional awareness in your community about your impact issue?