



How to Pass a Local Government Resolution in Support of Medicare for All

Working to pass a resolution through your city or town council is an important way to build momentum toward Medicare for All while at the same time empowering members of your community to make your voices heard.

The altered circumstances of advocacy work during COVID-19 offer both challenges and opportunities. With that in mind, we've altered this document to make it more relevant for activists organizing from home.

There are several steps you can take along the way to help things go smoothly and create the grassroots energy necessary to secure your resolution's passage. Those steps are outlined below. They are not all-inclusive but are meant to provide guidance. Feel free to adapt to your community's circumstances.

Here are the steps and a suggested timeline:

1. Decide what help you need to get started.

Most successful efforts to win local resolutions start with a small group of people working together and sharing tasks.

- Are you already part of a local progressive activist group? Find out if the group wants to participate as a whole or create a subcommittee of interested members.
- If you're by yourself, we can support you in recruiting people who have signed up in your area, or who are members of our national campaign partners. [Email us](#) for more information.

2. Find a Council Member to Introduce Your Resolution

The first step in the process is to find a council member to work with in drafting and passing the resolution.

Setting up a meeting

- Research which council member or members would be most likely to be supportive of this issue. If you do not know, you could contact a community organization that might be able to point you in the right direction.
- While in "normal times", you might request an in-person meeting, you can now request a phone conversation or video call. Your council member is will be less likely to send a staffer as a surrogate at the last minute. They know that you know they're home!
- Check out our sample email template to reach out to your council member [here](#). Many activists have had quick success in attaching copies of recently passed resolutions in other cities and/or press coverage of the campaign. You can access and read all resolutions that have been passed [here](#).

- If the council member you contact first is lukewarm, evasive, or not an ideal candidate, try other members of the council, even if they are not your direct representative. Every day, local legislators are hearing horror stories from constituents who are struggling to make it through this crisis. The chances of successfully making the case for a Medicare for All resolution with one or more of them may be higher than they were a few months ago.
- Remember that council members are often busy and have a lot on their plates, so you may have to try e-mailing and calling a few times to set up your meeting. Be respectful but be persistent.
- If you try multiple times without any response, you may want to enlist the help of a local union leader, member of the clergy, or other local leader with a connection with the council member.

Prepare for the meeting

- Consider what questions your council member might ask and pull together some links of fact sheets and resources you can share. In many cases, your job is not to convince your council member that she or he *should* support the resolution, but instead to convince your council member that she or he *can* and that doing so will help her or him tremendously in the eyes of the electorate.
- Choose from our list of [factsheets and resources](#), including sample resolution language [here](#) and resolutions passed in other cities [here](#).

During your meeting

- Make sure to ask about the council's schedule and discuss a timeline for introducing and passing your resolution.
- Because "I will bring it to the council next week" can mean a variety of things depending on how your council works, you may need to seek clarification on the voting process. Check with a city council aide, the city clerk, or the town manager's office to learn the correct procedure for introducing a resolution. It may have to go before a committee prior to consideration by the local legislative body.
- If your council member is supportive, you can ask them to work with the city finance department to produce a spreadsheet of the town's expenses on employee healthcare plans and on Medicare supplements for retirees.

3. Prepare for the resolution

- Find out who on the council is likely to vote on the resolution, and who needs to be persuaded by their constituents.
- [Email us](#) a breakdown of this list and we will work together with you to generate an action alert and phone script to share with Medicare for All supporters in your town through the listservs of our national and state partners. Action ideas include:
 - Petitions in support of The Medicare for All Act of 2019
 - Contact information for council members on the fence and a phone/email script
 - Directions on how to submit a public comment online or by phone, or how to sign up to speak at the hearing

- Information on how to watch the meeting, with a link to a facebook event or council website
- We'll help you to craft a press release in advance of the vote to send to local press the moment the resolution is passed.

4. Victory!

- Make sure to thank the council members and other allies who supported your effort. A thank-you note or postcard in the mail can help decorate their home office!
- Ask supportive council members if they would like to co-author an op-ed for a local paper ([let us know](#) and our press team will make it an easy process).

5. Share the resolution with your federal and/or state representative and senators.

Your resolution will have even more impact if you make sure your federal elected officials (and state legislators if applicable) know about it and if you engage your local government champions in your advocacy with your Representative and Senators.

- Get an official copy of the resolution from the city or county clerk (usually available in a week or so after the vote) and send copies to the representative for your congressional district, your senators, state legislators as appropriate, and other influential groups, such as local unions.
- Ask the local council members who supported the resolution to join a virtual delegation to meet with your federal elected officials to explain why they passed the resolution and to urge support for the federal legislation.

6. Support your neighbors

- Consider helping with a resolution effort in your county or a nearby town. Send a copy of the resolution to activist friends and invite them to join the campaign. [We'll help you](#) to connect them to partner organizations and individuals on our list who are based in the area.
- What worked? What didn't go as well? [Send us your thoughts](#) to help activist groups across the country reproduce your success!