

# Helping Teens Find Their Voice To Reduce Underage Drinking and Alcohol Misuse in Communities



## Youth - Your Voice Counts!

*Especially when it's about educating your elected officials on policy focused on underage drinking prevention.*

Here's the Need to Know when providing Testimony to your elected officials:

- ★ Arrive to the City Council/Board meeting early - you may have to sign up to provide testimony.
- ★ Prepare in advance what you want to say. You are there to educate, not ask for the passage of a bill or ordinance.
- ★ You will likely have a 3 to 5 minute limit to speak. The meeting may be recorded or televised.
- ★ You will need to share your full name and address to the council/board.
- ★ Speak from the heart. Share what you've seen or experienced. Educate on how underage drinking prevention policies/ordinances will positively impact you and your community.
- ★ Share substance use data from your community or county.
- ★ Be respectful of your time frame and of others' opinions.
- ★ Offer to answer any questions. It's ok if you don't know the answer. You can defer to another person or let them know you will get back with them.
- ★ Thank them for their time and attention to this matter.

For more information on underage drinking prevention policies and strategies go to <https://www.prevention.org/alcohol-policy-center/>

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