

WHAT IS AN

IT'S A DIRECT WAY TO SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY!



ALYSSA WALLACE,
FIELD ORGANIZER,
ENGAGED CITIZEN,
AND A VIRGO

...LTE?



A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE THAT EDUCATES AND INVITES SOLUTIONS.

DR. MARIA REYES,
DEPUTY DIRECTOR,
AND EXPERT IN
CIVICS

WHY WRITE?

Letters to the Editor, or LTE's, are a crucial way to share your opinions, engage with your community, and hold elected officials accountable. They are read by thousands of people, and can even influence public policy.

GIVE IT A SHOT! YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID

COMMISSION
SHIFT

Commission Shift is a Texas-based nonprofit building public support to hold the Railroad Commission of Texas accountable to its mission in a shifting energy landscape.

We educate and organize a wide array of Texans to build support for changes at the Railroad Commission that improve the agency's function, transparency, and accountability to the many people and places impacted by the oil and gas industry.

HOW TO WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR



COMPILED AND
ILLUSTRATED
BY SJ STOUT

With help from the
Commission Shift team

BEFORE YOU START WRITING

PICK THE PUBLICATION YOU WANT TO SEND A LETTER TO, AND HONE IN ON YOUR TOPIC*



WE'VE ALSO SEEN REPORTS ABOUT HOW THE GRID IS HOLDING UP IN THE HEATWAVE:

- EXCESS FLARING AND EMISSIONS
- RRC AND TX LEGISLATORS DOUBLING DOWN ON GAS FUEL WITHOUT ADVANCING STRONGER OVERSIGHT



MOST NEWSPAPERS TAKE DIGITAL SUBMISSIONS, BUT YOU CAN ALWAYS WRITE OR TYPE YOUR FIRST DRAFT.



I like to use my pen with a cowboy boot on the top.



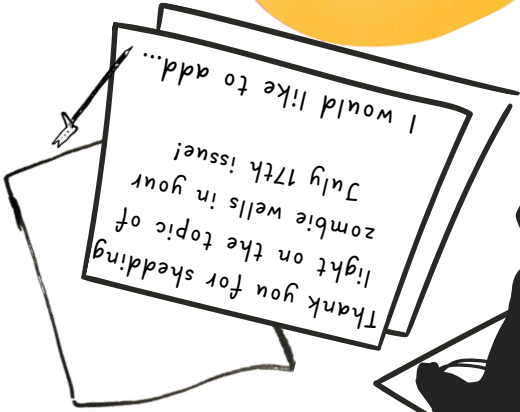
*CHECK COMMISSION SHIFT'S NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE FOR IDEAS AND INFO TO INCLUDE IN YOUR LETTER!



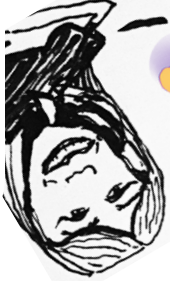
KEY PRINCIPLES...

1 HOOK 'EM!

- REPLY TO A PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED ARTICLE
- USE A FUN FACT
- MAKE IT PERSONAL



As much as possible, relate the letter to your own personal experience or that of your local area.



ST STOUT
COMMS MANAGER
LTE ENTHUSIAST,
CAT PARENT

2 BE CONCISE!

ALL LETS HAVE STRICT WORD LIMITS, SO CHECK THE GUIDELINES FOR YOUR PAPER AND STICK TO IT!

3 GRAB A FRIEND!

THE MORE LETTERS THAT ARE SUBMITTED ON A PARTICULAR TOPIC, THE BETTER THE ODDS THE NEWSPAPER WILL SELECT AT LEAST ONE OF THE LETTERS.



... AND YOU CAN PROOFREAD EACH OTHER'S WORK!

AND FINALLY....



4 DONT OVERTHINK IT!



WE CAN ALL GET STUCK IN THE PERFECTIONIST TRAP - DON'T LET YOUR HIGH STANDARDS KEEP YOU FROM SENDING A LETTER TODAY!

CHILL.

