

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor are among the most frequently read items in a newspaper.

They are a great way to get the attention of your legislators and members of your community, and let them hear the voice of local prochoice Catholics. Here are a few guidelines for getting your letter to the editor printed.

- **Localize your letter** - explain how the issue will affect you or people you know in your community. Include examples.
- **Make your letter timely** - if the newspaper has recently printed a story or column about the issue, reference the article and use it as a springboard for your letter.
- **Keep your letter short** and to the point - 200 words maximum.
- **Your letter should carry** its most important message in the first paragraph.
- **Limit the number of points** you make, and stay on the same subject
- **Support your facts.** Catholics for Choice has a variety of resources on its website (www.catholicsforchoice.org) that can help you.
- **Include your name**, address and daytime phone number. Editors like to call to confirm that the letter was actually written by the person whose name appears on the letter.
- **Don't be afraid to ask for action** -- tell readers what you want them to do.

This includes your elected representatives; you can be sure they read the letters to the editor.

Most papers accept letters to the editor either via email or an online submission form. You can also fax or mail a letter in to the editor.

Keep in mind that it always helps to follow up with a call to ensure that the letter has been received.

Please send a copy of your letters (published and unpublished) to Catholics for Choice at activists@catholicsforchoice.org.