Using Twitter for CalRTA Advocacy

Twitter can be very effective for CalRTA advocacy purposes. If every CalRTA member were to have a Twitter account, even if he or she uses it only to send messages to legislators regarding WEP/GPO penalties, Social Security and Medicare issues, or anything else that we advocate for, this could be a very powerful tool. It’s a very fast way to let legislators know what we want them to do.

Here’s how:

1. Make a Twitter account for yourself at [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) on your computer or by downloading the app on your smartphone or tablet. [WikiHow’s article](https://www.wikihow.com/Build-a-Twitter-Account) is very helpful; skip the ads, and read and follow the directions. You don’t need to give more than the basic information, nor do you have to use a really clever name. Just a plain, basic account is all you need. If you already have a Twitter account, then keep reading and add your legislators to those you follow.

2. Go to [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov), and enter your zip code in the search box at the top right. Go to your House member’s webpage.

3. Then find the little blue Twitter symbol and click on it. It looks like a pale blue square with a turquoise-blue t in it, as shown above.

4. Find the word Follow toward the right of that page and click on it. You will now get any tweets (messages) your legislator sends out, and you can send him/her messages, too.

5. Go to [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) and click on Find Your Senators near the top left. Choose your state, and go into each of your Senator’s webpages, find the Twitter symbol, click on it, and click Follow.

6. Go to [www.assembly.ca.gov](http://www.assembly.ca.gov) and find the link to Find My Representative. Click on it and enter your street address, city, and zip code. Click on Locate, and your representatives in both the Assembly and Senate will be there. Click on each one – one at a time – to get to his/her webpage, find the Twitter symbol, click on it, and click Follow.

7. CalRTA members in other states can find their state legislators just as easily. All states have websites where people can find this information. Or just use Google or any other search engine to find your state’s legislators.
Once you have a Twitter account set up and your legislators in your “Following” list, you’re ready to send messages to them.

1. Open Twitter and start typing in the space at the top where it says, “What’s happening?” Start out with your legislator’s name like this → @DianeFeinstein

2. Tap the spacebar a time or two and start your message. There is a limit on letters and spaces, but it’s not 120 characters anymore! Just keep an eye on the little circle at the bottom right of your message space; the more the blue circle moves to completion, the less space you have.

3. You can get ideas for wording at https://calrta.org – whether you log in or not. Scroll down and click on Advocacy Action. You’ll find lots of information and examples of wording you can use. Choose carefully since you need to be concise in tweets!

4. When you’ve composed your message, click on the word Tweet to send it.