

West Virginia LTE Toolkit

Sample LTE:

The draft below is meant to be used as a reference for LTE outreach. Make sure to personalize your LTE, writing in your own voice as much as possible.

[Introduction/greeting]

I'd like to offer my thoughts on an article you recently published titled **[headline original article]**. First, thank you for reporting on this issue. Every bit of coverage of House Bill 4785 counts, especially at a time when so many West Virginians are under informed about the threat it poses to our courts.

I've been a resident of **[insert your county]** for **[x years]**, and I don't remember once asking politicians in this state to take away my voting power so that it could be handed to the governor. Yet that's exactly what they're trying to do. HB 4785 would block voter oversight of judicial appointments for more than three years, potentially opening the door to all kinds of unchecked judicial misconduct. If you don't think three years is very long, just remember that in 2019 the world had never heard of COVID-19. A lot can happen in three years

West Virginians expect a fair shake from their courts, but that's impossible if their say-so over judicial appointees is stripped away. We need to make clear to legislators that it's not okay to play politics with our courts. At the end of the day, all West Virginians want is a fair shake from a fair, balanced government -- I don't think it's too much to ask that our lawmakers be willing to respect that. The Senate must vote against HB 4785.

[Add contact information]

How to Write a Letter to the Editor:

ReThink Media's [Top 9 Tips](#)

1. Include the title of the original article
2. Keep it brief
3. Respond quickly
4. Focus on one point
5. Personalize your message
6. Know your audience
7. Be polite -- in what you write and your approach
8. Proofread
9. Include your contact information

How to Submit Your LTE:

Outlet	Word Limit	Submission Link
Charleston Gazette-Mail	250 words	https://www.wvgazettemail.com/site/forms/online_services/letter_editor/
The Herald Dispatch	300 words	https://www.herald-dispatch.com/site/forms/online_services/letter_editor/
West Virginia Daily News	None	Email include name, address, and telephone.
WVNews (includes	300 words	https://www.wvnews.com/site/forms/online_services/letter/

several papers, including State Journal , Clarksburg Exponent , Telegram , Weston Democrat , Fairmont News , and Preston County News and Journal)		Mention in the email which publication you'd like to direct your letter to. Multiple letters from the same person within a one-month period or form letters will not be considered.
The Journal	500 words	https://www.journal-news.net/site/forms/online_services/letter_editor/ Include name, address, and telephone.
WV Public News Service	None	Email jsinderbrand@publicnewsservice.org , (Jake Sinderbrand, outreach director) Include name, address, and telephone.
WV Metro News	None	Email help@wvmetronews.com Include name, address, and telephone.
The Parkersburg News & Sentinel	None	https://www.newsandsentinel.com/submit-news/ Select "Letter to the Editor" under Categories.
The Register-Herald	350 words	https://www.register-herald.com/site/forms/online_services/letter/
The Intelligencer and Wheeling News-Register	None	https://www.theintelligencer.net/submit-news/ Select "Letter to the Editor" under Categories.
Times West Virginian	250 words	https://www.timeswv.com/site/forms/online_services/letter/
Bluefield Daily Telegraph	250 words	https://www.bdtonline.com/site/forms/online_services/letter/
Spirit of Jefferson	N/A	Email editor@spiritofjefferson.com Include name, address, and telephone.
The Morgan Messenger	N/A	Email editor@morganmessenger.com Include name, address, and telephone.
Hampshire Review	400 words	Email news@hampshirereview.com Include name, address, and telephone.

Mineral Daily News Tribune	N/A	Email lbeavers@newstribune.info (Liz Beavers) Include name, address, and telephone.
Coal Valley News	None	https://www.coalvalleynews.com/site/forms/online_services/cvn_submit_news/
Mountain Statesman	None	Email nskinner@mountainstatesman.com (Nicki Skinner) Include name, address, and telephone.
Hur Herald	500 words	Email bob@hurherald.com (Bob Weaver) Include name, address, and telephone.
The Inter-Mountain	N/A	https://www.theintermountain.com/submit-news/ Select "Letter to the Editor" under Categories.
Huntington News	None	Email stories@huntingtonnews.net Include name, address, and telephone.
Morgan Messenger	None	Email editor@morganmessenger.com Include name, address, and telephone.
Pocahontas Times	None	Email Jsgraham@pocahontastimes.com (Jaynell Graham) Include name, address, and telephone.
Moorefield Examiner	None	Email news@moorefieldexaminer.com Include name, address, and telephone.
Dominion Post	300-350 words	Email opinion@dominionpost.com Include, name, address, and telephone.