

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 Amendment 1 counts, especially at a time when so many West Virginians are under-informed about the impact it would have on our court system.

[This amendment](#) would make it so that no court in the state could protect a public official's right to a fair hearing. No matter how senseless the charge or constitutionally flawed the process, the courts would not be able to step in. This power could be [easily abused](#) to oust political opponents without cause.

West Virginia's legislators already have the power to impeach public officials, and it is [laid out clearly](#) in our state constitution. Despite this, some of our delegates falsely claimed that they've been stripped of their ability to impeach and introduced this amendment. Needless to say, this amendment is not about having fair impeachments, it's about removing a branch of government from the process entirely.

West Virginians know how vital checks and balances between the three branches of government are to securing their rights as voters, business owners, workers, and members of the community. To deliver on the promise of equal justice for all, we need the three branches to work together - we can't just remove courts from the equation.

[Insert something personal, eg "As a resident of x county, this matters to me because..."].

What we need is a judiciary that enforces the constitution freely and fairly, independent of whom it's being applied to. 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 for everyone to have their day in court – I don't think that's too much to ask.

[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 editor@wvdailynews.net Include name, address, and telephone.
WVNews (includes several papers, including State Journal , Clarksburg Exponent Telegram , Weston Democrat , Fairmont News , and Preston County News and Journal)	300 words	https://www.wvnews.com/site/forms/online_services/letter/ 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.