



RTCNYC Tool 6.5.3

Template for Call Drives to Elected Officials

One of the specific ways we engaged elected officials was through call drives done by tenants and members. We organized calls to City Council officials to garner support for the Right to Counsel bill. Preparing a flyer with phone numbers, call scripts, and the elected’s position on your bill is a convenient way to give members the information they need to make calls. Below is a template you can customize to organize call drives in your city.

In addition to the flyer and RAP below, we also created a document listing every council member, their contact information, and whether they had signed on to Right to Counsel. This was used as another tool to guide our outreach, and sharing the elected official’s position on the issue also served as a public “report card,” as it clearly identified supporters and non-supporters. That flyer is included as an example.

Part I: Flyer Template for Outreach to Elected Officials

CALL YOUR COUNCIL MEMBERS, THE SPEAKER OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE MAYOR TO TELL THEM: NOW IS THE TIME TO PASS RIGHT TO COUNSEL—BRING THE BILL TO A VOTE!

Nearly [X # of households in X were evicted in YYYY], and a much larger number gave up their homes under the threat of eviction. Tenants forced out of their homes face a housing market that leaves them with few options – they are left homeless or in more expensive housing than they left. While [X%] of tenants have attorneys in Housing Court, the vast majority don’t, making Housing Court a center of displacement and eviction, and a key tool for landlords to drive displacement and speculation. [Bill Name (Right to Counsel)] would provide attorneys for tenants and homeowners who are facing eviction and foreclosure in Housing Court and who [insert parameters for service, ie. make 200% of the poverty line or below (\$48,500 for a family of 4)]. While [X] sponsors have signed on to support the bill, and there was unanimous support for the bill at a hearing in September, the bill has yet to come to a vote. Every day without a right to counsel, is a day with unjust evictions.

#1: CALL YOUR COUNCIL MEMBER TODAY!

#2: CALL NYC COUNCIL SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO TODAY! [This was our secondary target, see our [Campaign Planning Tool](#)]

#3: CALL THE MAYOR TODAY! [Insert Phone Number]

TELL THEM THAT YOU SUPPORT RIGHT TO COUNSEL, THAT NYC NEEDS RIGHT TO COUNSEL AND THAT THEY NEED TO CALL THE BILL TO A VOTE.

Elected Official Name	District/Ward/Neighborhood	Phone Number	Signed RTC?



Part II: Sample Call RAP

A rap is a short script that members can refer to as they make their calls. They don't have to stick to the script but it helps greatly as folks get used to making the calls. Here is a sample rap you can use to get started. For more sample raps, you can go to the [Research for Organizing Toolkit](#).

Hi my name is _____ and I am calling today with the Right to Counsel Coalition to talk to you about the Right to Counsel bill. As you may know, establishing a Right to Counsel would help thousands of tenants facing displacement and eviction.

If Elected Official Already Supports Bill: Thank you for your support for the RTC bill! We need RTC in our city/state and we need the bill to go to vote!

If Elected Official has not Supported the Bill: We need [Elected official's name] to come out and support this bill! We need RTC in our city/state and we need the bill to go to vote!

Thank you for your time!