The following includes information on writing letters to newspapers, information on the council’s blog, Chicago’s Progressive Talk Radio, and information on how to contact the White House, Illinois’ senators and Rep. Kinzinger.

**WRITING LETTERS TO NEWSPAPERS**

The following are newspapers that are good targets to get letters published. It’s OK to send the same letter to different newspapers but do send separate emails to each paper.

When you submit a letter to a paper please forward a copy to me (ronaldkurowski@yahoo.com) and I will post it our Patch blog. If your letter gets published let me know. I will email a copy of your published letter to the entire council.

**Letters to the Southtown Star:**

Use the following link:

<http://southtownstar.suntimes.com/opinions/letters/2780689-474/story.html>

Ask that the letter be published in their Letters section.

They need your name, address and daytime phone number, but they will only publish your name and town. Letters need to be 300 words or less.

You can track your letters electronically at: [www.southtownstar.com/](http://www.southtownstar.com/).

**Letters to the Joliet Herald:**

Use the following link:

<http://heraldnews.suntimes.com/opinions/letters/5147615-474/submit-your-letter-to-the-editor.html>

They need your name, address and daytime phone number, but they will only publish your name and town. Letters need to be 300 words or less.

You can track your letters electronically at:

<http://heraldnews.suntimes.com>

**Letters to the The Times Weekly:**

Email to: Editor@Thetimesweekly.com

This is a small publication (77,000 subscribers), but they publish quite a few letters to the editor and are very progressive. They only publish once a week on Thursday.

They need your name, address and daytime phone number, but they will only publish your name and town. Letters need to be **500** words or less.

The editor is Jamie Cain.

You can track your letters electronically at [www.thetimesweekly.com/](http://www.thetimesweekly.com/)

**Letters to the Plainfield Enterprise**

Email to: News@enterprisepublications.com

The editor is Grace Tucker.

I couldn’t find any requirements on length, name, etc. But I would limit my length between 300 and 400 words. I would also include my name and town where I live.

**The Chicago Tribune:**

Email to CTC-Tribletter@tribune.com

They need your name, address and daytime phone number, but they will only publish your name and town. Letters need to be **400** words or less.

Subject Matter:

The Trib is more likely to publish a letter that has appeal to the entire region than one that has a more narrow audience.

You can track your letters electronically at: [www.chicagotribune.com/](http://www.chicagotribune.com/)

**The Chicago Sun-Times:**

Email Letters@Suntimes.com (No attachments)

They need your name, address and daytime phone number, but they will only publish your name and town. They don’t have word limit but I would keep it under 300 words.

Subject Matter:

The Sun-Times is more likely to publish a letter that has appeal to the entire region than one that has a more narrow audience.

You should be able to track your letter electronically at: [www.suntimes.com](http://www.suntimes.com).

**Tips on Writing a Letter to the Editor**

 \* Reference a Recent Article: If possible, it is best to include a reference to recent article that appeared in the newspaper you've selected, and then write your letter as a response, building on what was printed or pointing out how your viewpoint isn't included. This greatly increases the likelihood that your letter will be printed.

 \* State Your Point Early: Be sure to state your main point in the subject line and in the first sentence of the letter.

\* Keep to One Topic: Keep your letters focused on one subject.

 \* Topics for local papers can be on local issues or national issues.

\* Topics for regional papers (Chicago Tribune and Sun Times) should be on national issues.

**BLOGGING ON PATCH PAPERS**

The South Suburban MoveOn council now can blog on the Patch.com papers. Patch.com papers are grouped on a regional basis and blog pieces are shared with other Patch papers within the region. Our council will be able to post the same blog on the <http://newlenox.patch.com/> and on <http://romeoville.patch.com/> . The editors of those papers will then send the same blog to various papers in their respective regions.

The New Lenox Patch editor will send our blog piece to the following papers: Mokena Patch; Frankfort Patch; Tinley Park Patch; Orland Park Patch and Oak Forest Patch.

The Romeoville Patch editor will send our blog piece to the following papers: Plainfield Patch; Shorewood Patch; Bolingbrook Patch; Lemont Patch and Channahon-Minooka Patch.

**Thus, one blog piece gets exposure on Patch papers in numerous communities surrounding Joliet.**

Our blog name on the patch papers is: **South Suburban MoveOn Council.**

**What sort of articles do we intend to put on the blog?**

1. Regular blog pieces that allow you to express your opinion on any issue within the purview of our council. Letters to the editor would make great blog pieces.

Here is an example by Don of a blog piece:

<http://romeoville.patch.com/blog_posts/national-defense-authorization-act-and-civil-liberties-f379f5f3>

1. Promoting council events. Here is an example on how we used a blog to promote the “Move to Amend” event:

<http://newlenox.patch.com/blog_posts/money-and-politics>

3. Reporting on how council events went. Here is an example by Midge on how the “Move to Amend” event went:

 <http://newlenox.patch.com/blog_posts/you-really-should-have-been-there>

In each instance we were able to promote our ideas and get our message out on a critical issue to a very wide audience.

**Writing, reading and commenting on Patch blogs:**

To read a blog go to either <http://newlenox.patch.com/> or to <http://romeoville.patch.com/> . You will need to create a login and password identity which will allow you into any of the patch papers. All blogs are under the “**Local Voices”** column**.**

When writing an original blog piece to be put on the Patch blog send it to msprogressives@gmail.com.

When you send a letter to a local paper and want it on the blog send a **blind cc** to msprogressives@gmail.com.

Chuck Teeter and I will monitor msprogressives@gmail.com and will send all appropriate blog pieces to both the New Lenox and Romeoville Patch papers.

All blogs we send to the Patch papers will also be posted on our council’s blog: <http://mainstreetprogressives.wordpress.com/>

Patch papers do require a full name on all blogs but no town names.

To comment on a blog simply log in to either of the two Patch papers and write your comment to the appropriate blog. Your user name will be show up as the writer of a comment.

Patch editors review all blogs and comments for appropriateness before posting them on their sites.

**CHICAGO PROGRESSIVE TALK RADIO**

The only progressive talk radio station in Chicago can be found at this site:

**chicagosprogressivetalk.com/**

**Progressillinois.com is an excellent site to keep up with what is happening in Illinois politics, both locally and statewide.**

**CONTACTING THE PEOPLE WHO WORK FOR YOU**

**CONTACT THE WHITE HOUSE**

**You can email the White House on their website:** [**www.whitehouse.gov/contact**](http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact)

**Write the President at: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington D.C. 20500**

**Telephone Numbers:**

**Comments: 202.456.1111**

**Switchboard: 202.456.1414**

**Fax: 202.456.2461**

**CONTACT REP. KINZINGER 11TH DISTRICT**

**Kinzinger’s telephone numbers: Joliet – 815.729.2308; Washington D.C – 202.225.3635, Fax – 202.225.3521**

**Joliet address: 2701 Black Rd. Ste. 201, Joliet, IL 60435**

**Washington address: 1218 Longworth HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515**

**Email Kinzinger from the home page of his website: www.kinzinger.house.gov/contact**

**CONTACT SENATOR DURBIN**

**Senator Durbin telephone numbers: 202.224.2152 in Washington D.C., 312.353.4952 in Chicago, or 217.492.4062 in Springfield.**

**Send letters to 711 Hart Senate Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 or to**

**230 S. Dearborn St., Suite 3892, Chicago, IL 60604**

**Email Senator Durbin by going to the home page on his website: www.durbin.senate.gov/. You can email him directly from his site.**

**CONTACT SENATOR KIRK**

**Washington, DC Chicago Springfield
387 Russell Senate Office Building  230 South Dearborn 607 East Adams
Washington DC, 20510 Suite 3900 Springfield, IL 62071
Phone: 202-224-2854 Chicago, IL 60604 Phone 217-492-5089
Fax: 202-228-461 Phone 312-886-3506**

**You can email Senator Kirk by going to the home page on his website: kirk.senate.gov/. You can email him directly from website.**