

# VOICE *of* OC

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## ORANGE COUNTY'S NONPROFIT NEWSROOM

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## WRITER'S GUIDE FOR VOICE OF OC OP-EDS

Voice of OC is interested in hearing different perspectives and voices on civic matters. If you want to write an op-ed please contact Voice of OC Involvement Editor Theresa Sears at [TSears@voiceofoc.org](mailto:TSears@voiceofoc.org) Below are a few basic guidelines.

Let our readers know what your call to action or issue is. Be straightforward. Be civil. Tell us what you're about. If that involves holding an agency or official accountable, aka: calling them out, feel free to do so. Just keep in mind this space isn't about attacking others.

Guidelines for articles:

1. **Length:** generally we ask for 750 to 1,000 words.
2. **Links:** include links to documents.
3. **Photos:** enhance social media sharing by including your own photos, maps or other data.
4. **Excerpt:** include an excerpt; a short synopsis of what your editorial is about. The excerpt should give the reader a reason to read your editorial.
5. **Headline:** suggest a headline, although Voice of OC editors make the final decision.
6. **Bio:** include the author's first and last name, town of residence and a brief biography, including affiliations with political parties, lobbying or special interest groups.
7. Please avoid using ALL CAPS in stories. It's the equivalent of shouting.

Be credible. Check your facts. We do. So do others.

Let us know if your issue is time sensitive. If your issue involves an upcoming public meeting or a petition, let readers know important dates or ways to get involved.

Once you get published, share your voice through social media platforms like Facebook.

**We reserve the right to reject opinions for matters of taste and accuracy.  
Opinions expressed in editorials belong to the authors and not Voice of OC.**