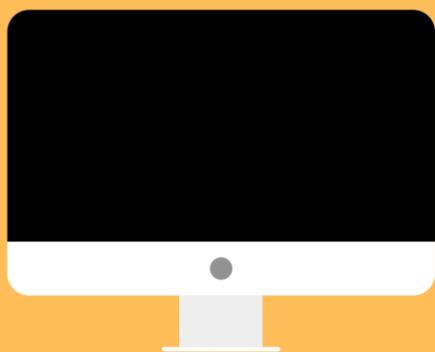


TOWN HALL MEETINGS



FIND A TOWN HALL MEETING

Check your legislator's official website or call their local office to see if they have any upcoming town halls planned in your district, and consider subscribing to their email list so you can stay informed on future events.

KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT

Town hall meetings usually begin with the legislator giving remarks on a range of recent and upcoming legislative issues and activities, and then calling for constituents' questions. Plan to arrive early to sign up to ask your question. By arriving early, you may even have time to speak with your representative or their staff members before the meeting begins, and this will give you time to connect to other advocates in your community.



BE PREPARED

Form your question ahead of time, and bring a written version to the meeting. When formulating your question, it is best to keep it as simple and succinct as possible. Questions that ask for a "yes" or "no" answer are ideal, and it is particularly powerful to tie your question to your personal story. Limit your story to about 2 minutes and make it genuine and from the heart.



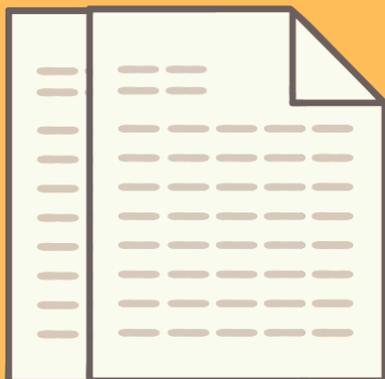
BE RESPECTFUL

People often show up to these town hall meetings with a sense of entitlement to be heard. While this may be true, it will not help you be remembered in a good way unless you are very respectful to the legislator and his or her staff members.



LEAVE PAPER

Leave something (talking points, etc.) that can be faxed or sent back to Washington. Staff members at town hall meetings aren't always directly connected to Washington, so it's a safe bet to leave something that can be forwarded to the legislative staff specific to your issue.



FOLLOW UP

In the days following the town hall meeting, send a follow up email to your legislator's office reminding them of your attendance at the town hall, the question you posed, and any additional resources or data related to the specific issue. Continue to follow up on any actions that your representative committed to making in the future, and thank them if/when they do take these actions.

