



HOW TO: TOWN HALLS



BEFORE YOU ARRIVE...

Town Halls are hosted by members of Congress to give constituents an opportunity to meet with them personally in their home districts or states.

TIP #1

Get there early! Town halls fill up fast. Check ahead of time if your specific town hall has early registration to ensure admittance.

TIP #2

Practice! In many cases you will only have 2-4 minutes to speak. Be sure to prepare your introduction, story, and question in advance.

STEP 1



INTRODUCE YOURSELF

It's important for your Senator or Representative to know the constituent they are talking to. State your name and city, how long you have lived in the area, and your profession. If you are there representing a specific community (i.e. a neighborhood, school, mosque, etc.), mention that as well.

STEP 2



THANK YOUR MEMBER FOR BEING THERE

Expressing appreciation to your Senator or Representative for their public service and for hosting the town hall builds goodwill. It also makes them more receptive to hearing and answering your questions.

STEP 3



TELL A BRIEF STORY

In one sentence, state the topic you would like to raise. Then tell a specific personal story of how the issue affected you or the community you represent. Your story should be strong but succinct.

STEP 4



MAKE A CLEAR DIRECT ASK

This is the crux of your statement. The more specific you make your question/ask, the harder it will be for the member to sidestep the issue you raised. Ultimately, you want to get them on the record agreeing to take concrete action.

STEP 5



FOLLOW UP

After the town hall, you may have an opportunity to speak with the Congressman or their staff if you were not able to raise your concerns during the event. Obtain staffers' contact information to follow up and hold your member for their votes later on.

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