

How-To: Town Halls

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

Introduce Yourself

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

Thank Your Member for Being There

Expressing appreciation to your 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.

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.

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. You ultimately want to get them on the record agreeing to take concrete action.

Example: "The president has already signed an executive order that revoked the protection of Muslims with green cards and valid visas travelling to the US. Can we count on you to condemn these actions publicly, and do you agree to cosponsor bills such as bill xxxx that seeks to protect American-Muslim communities without any conditions?"

Follow-Up

After the town hall, you may have an opportunity to speak with the Congressman or their staff if you weren't able to raise your concerns during the event. Obtain staffers' contact information to follow up and hold your member accountable for their votes later on. It will also lay the groundwork for future in-district or DC meetings.

Tip 1

Get there early! In today's political climate, town halls fill up fast. Also check ahead of time if your specific town hall has a pre-sign up to ensure admittance.



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Tip 2

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