

August Recess Town Hall Tips & Tricks

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Town halls are great ways for people to have direct meetings (virtual or in-person) with their members of Congress (MOC) while they are back in their home states/districts. This kind of interaction provides a unique opportunity for lawmakers to hear directly from the people they represent. For advocates, it is an important place to elevate priority issues.

HOW TO PREPARE:

» **Identify your Members of Congress.**

- Find your House Representative's contact info [here](#).
- Find your Senators' contact info [here](#).

» **Find a town hall event and sign up.** You will likely need to sign up for your member of Congress' town hall ahead of time.

» **Do your research.** Look up the MOC's voting record or any specific statement they have made on the issue(s) you want to raise. Include any information you learned in your questions/remarks, if possible.

» **Plan your questions.** After signing up, you may be prompted to submit questions ahead of time. It is good practice to plan ahead and draft questions in advance, but there will often be time allotted at the end of the event to ask additional questions.

» **Create awareness for your networks.** Make sure others know about the event ahead of time. You can share information by email and on social media, or invite your friends. You can even invite local reporters/press to ensure the town hall gets maximum visibility.

BEST PRACTICES FOR REMARKS/QUESTIONS:

- » **Share your story.** Our personal stories are incredibly important; this is how policy gets connected to the lives of real people.
- » **Have a specific ask.** Prepare questions that are precise and include a specific ask — make them commit to a position, or give a direct yes or no response.

MAKE SURE TO FOLLOW UP:

- » **Use social media.** Document your experience and post it on Twitter, Facebook, etc., and tag your Member of Congress. It also helps spread the word about the event and show others how easy it is to raise their voices!
- » **Follow up with staff.** Most town hall events will be attended or even run by a member's legislative or district staff. Ask for their contact information if you can. Share your materials or stories directly with them, and ask them to think of you as a resource. You can also ask to be added to your MOC's email list.