



## February Town Hall Guide

Over the past few weeks, we've seen an incredible outpouring of energy at district offices across the country, calling for our representatives to represent us and reject Trump's harmful agenda.

During the February congressional recess, February 18–26, 2017, many members of Congress will hold town halls and other public events, creating an opportunity for us to publicly demand answers to our questions about protecting health care and standing up to the Trump Administration.

This guide will help you prepare for your town hall meeting so that the experience is positive and effective, so read it closely! And thanks for speaking out.

### KEY PRINCIPLES

- The goal of attending a town hall is to get your member of Congress to take a public stance. Come prepared to ask pointed questions and press your elected official to give you a clear answer. Be polite, but be relentless. Your member of Congress should feel as though they're under pressure by constituents. Don't be afraid to ask repeatedly and push for a firm commitment in support of health care or denouncement of Trump's policies.
- Take photos and video and share them on social media right away using #ResistanceRecess. Record your questions and your member of Congress's answer on video. Often there will be reporters at town halls, but it's critical to have our own record of what's said so that we can get the word out to the media.
- Don't engage with the opposition. Don't help them by getting baited into an argument; stay focused on your member of Congress and your message. [Here are some more tips for de-escalating a situation with opposition.](#)

### HOW TO

#### 1. Research your representative's and your two senators' schedules

First, check [www.resistancerecess.com](http://www.resistancerecess.com). We're researching and posting opportunities to publicly pressure your member of Congress to protect health care and reject the Trump Administration's agenda, sourced from people around the country. If you see an event near you, RSVP and use the materials at [resistancerecess.com](http://resistancerecess.com) to get prepared!

However, we won't hear about every town hall and public appearance by members of Congress. *We need your help.*

Check your member of Congress's website. Call their office and ask about upcoming town halls and public appearances. Check their Facebook page or Twitter feed. Keep an eye on the local newspaper.

If you find out about a public appearance that isn't already listed on [www.ResistanceRecess.com](http://www.ResistanceRecess.com), add the event by clicking "Create a New Event" at the bottom of that page. We'll help recruit more constituents to join you at the event.

## **2. Recruit a team**

If you're planning to confront your member of Congress at a town hall, you'll want help. A single person can be effective, but a team is always better. Recruit a group of at least five or 10 people to go with you.

If your event is posted on [resistancerecess.com](http://resistancerecess.com), we'll also help you recruit fellow constituents to attend.

## **3. Make a plan**

Set a nearby location for constituents attending the event to meet up before the town hall and walk in together.

Decide how you want to be visible at the event. The most important things to do are to find opportunities to ask your member of Congress your question and make sure they actually answer it. It's a good idea to have your group spread out, so that you have more opportunities to ask questions. Arrive early to get good seats.

Divide up roles. Decide in advance who is going to be inside and asking questions, who will hold signs outside (if anyone), who will shoot video, and who will take photos and post them on social media using #ResistanceRecess.

Practice the question you will ask of your member of Congress. For examples of questions about health care, [click here](#).

## **4. Attend the town hall**

Once you are at the event, do everything you can (within reason) to get your target to answer your question about where they stand on the issue. You can get several people to ask him or her directly, hold up signs, get reporters to inquire, etc. The key is to be relentless and highly visible. Again, remember to assign someone to videotape any interactions so that your member of Congress's comments are recorded.

## **5. Report back**

What happens at the town hall may be newsworthy, so please report back immediately after the event by posting on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and other social media using #ResistanceRecess. Include any photos and/or videos you shot at the event. Also, check your email for a survey after your event to provide feedback.

## **TIP: RECORDING GOOD VIDEO**

Recording good video takes a bit of preparation. Here are a few simple tips to do it right:

1. Have multiple people shooting video.
2. Use a camera if you can (and if you've got a professional camera, use that). Cell phones work, but higher-quality video is always better.
3. Keep the focus on your member of Congress. Don't pan back and forth between the crowd and your target.
4. Stand or sit as close as you can to your member of Congress.
5. Use Facebook Live. [Click here for tips on using Facebook Live.](#)

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