

AUGUST CONGRESSIONAL RECESS TOWN HALL MEETINGS BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. **Listing of Congressional Town Hall meetings by state**
2. **10 Strategies for Congressional Town Hall Meetings (page 9)**
3. **Talking Points (page 11)**

CONGRESSIONAL TOWN HALL MEETINGS BY STATE

(As of August 4, 2009; call your members of Congress to see if they've scheduled a meeting if there isn't one listed here)

California

Rep. Jackie Speier

- 08/23 11:00 AM - 12:30PM: Congress on the Coast - Cypress Meadows Conference Center, 343 Cypress Avenue, Moss Beach, CA
- 08/29 09:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Family Forum At Burton Park - Burton Park, 900 Chestnut Street, San Carlos, CA

Rep. Fortney Stark

- 08/15 09:00 AM : Town Hall Meeting - Fremont Senior Center, 40086 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont, CA
- 08/15 10:30 AM : Town Hall Meeting - San Leandro City Hall, 835 E 14th Street, San Leandro, CA
- 08/15 12:00 PM : Town Hall Meeting - Alameda City Hall, 2263 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, CA
- 09/12 09:00 AM 10:00 AM: Town Hall Meeting - Ruggieri Senior Center, 33997 Alvarado Niles Road, Union City, CA
- 09/12 10:30 AM 11:30 AM: Town Hall Meeting - Hayward City Hall, Council Chambers 777 B Street, Hayward, CA
- 09/12 12:00 PM 01:00 PM: Town Hall Meeting - Alameda City Hall, Council Chambers 2263 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, CA

Rep. Dan Lungren

- 08/18 07:00 PM 08:30 PM: Town Hall - Citrus Heights City Hall, 6237 Fountain Square Drive, Citrus Heights, CA
- 08/22 10:00 AM 12:00 PM: Town Hall - Jackson City Hall, 33 Broadway, Jackson, CA
- 08/26 07:00 PM 08:30 PM: Town Hall - Rancho Cordova City Hall, 2729 Prospect Park Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA

Rep. Susan Davis

- 08/29 01:00 PM 02:00 PM: Neighborhood Day - Spring Valley Library, 836 Kempton Street, Spring Valley, CA

Colorado

Rep. Ed Perlmutter

- 08/08 01:00 PM : Government in the Grocery - King Soopers, 500 Bromley Lane, Brighton, CO

Georgia

Rep. John Linder

- 08/05 04:00 PM 06:00 PM: Constituent Outreach - Grayson Library, 700 Grayson Parkway, Grayson, GA
- 08/13 05:00 PM 07:00 PM: Constituent Outreach - Suwanee Library, 361 Main Street, Suwanee, GA
- 08/13 10:00 AM 12:00 PM: Constituent Outreach - Piedmont Regional Library, 189 Bell View Street, Winder, GA
- 08/19 10:00 AM 12:00 PM: Constituent Outreach - Monroe- Walton Library, 217 West Spring Street, Monroe, GA
- 08/19 01:00 PM 03:00 PM: Constituent Outreach - Covington Library, 7116 Floyd Road, Covington, GA

Rep. David Scott

- 08/15 10:00 AM 02:00 PM: District Health Fair - Mundy's Mill High School, 9652 Fayetteville Road, Jonesboro, GA

Illinois

Rep. Timothy Johnson

- 08/05 06:30 PM 07:30 PM: Town Hall - Normal Library Community Room, 206 W. College Avenue, Normal, IL
- 08/10 07:00 PM 08:00 PM: Town Hall - Pontiac City Hall, 115 W. Howard Street, Pontiac, IL

Rep. Danny Davis

- 08/15 01:00 PM : Town Hall - Columbus Park, Central and Jackson, Chicago, IL
- 08/15 10:00 AM : Town Hall - Kickoff Central and Bloomingdale, Central and Bloomingdale, Chicago, IL

Kansas

Rep. Jerry Moran

- 08/04 09:30 AM 10:30 AM: County Tour Stop - Sauder Community Center, 110 South 1st Street, Madison, KS
- 08/13 01:00 PM 02:00 PM: County Tour Stop - Chamber of Commerce, 306 N. Main Street, McPherson, KS
- 08/13 04:30 PM 05:30 PM: County Tour Stop - TBD, TBD, Cottonwood Falls, KS
- 08/13 02:30 PM 03:30 PM: County Tour Stop - Tabor College , Wolhgemuth Music Education Center 400 South Jefferson Street, Hillsboro, KS

Mississippi

Rep. Gene Taylor

- 08/03 06:00 PM 07:30 PM: Town Hall - Waynesboro City Hall, 714 Wayne Street, Waynesboro, MS

Missouri

Sen. Claire McCaskill

- 08/10 9:00 AM: Open Forum - Southeast Missouri State University - Kennett 1230 First St. Kennett, MO 63857
- 08/10 11:45 AM: Roundtable with Rural Health Care Providers - Pemiscot County Pemiscot Memorial Health Systems, 907 E. Reed Hayti, MO 63851
- 08/10 2:30 PM: Open Forum - Three Rivers Community College Rutland Library, 2080 Three Rivers Blvd Poplar Bluff, MO 63901

North Carolina

Rep. Patrick McHenry

- 08/04 06:00 PM : Town Hall - Avery County Commissioner?s Board Room, 2nd Floor175 Linville Street, Newland, NC
- 08/06 06:00 PM : Town Hall - Spruce Pine Public Library, Community Meeting Room142 Walnut Avenue, Spruce Pine, NC
- 08/10 06:00 PM : Town Hall - Mooresville Town Hall, Town Commissioners Chamber413 North Main Street, Mooresville, NC
- 08/11 06:00 PM : Town Hall - Hickory City Hall, City Council Chambers76 North Center Street, Hickory, NC
- 08/12 06:00 PM : Town Hall - James Warren Lincoln County Citizens Center, Commissioners Chambers115 West Main Street, Lincolnton, NC
- 08/13 06:00 PM : Town Hall - Lenoir Library, Meeting Room 6, Lower Level120 Hospital Avenue, Lenoir, NC
- 08/17 06:00 PM : Town Hall - Western Piedmont Community College, Phifer Learning Resource Center (LRC), Second Floor, Room 1201001 Burkemont Avenue, Morganton, NC
- 08/18 06:00 PM : Town Hall - Rutherford County Schools Offices, School Board Chambers382 West Main Street, Forest City, NC
- 08/19 06:00 PM : Town Hall - Cherryville Fire Department, 411 East Church Street, Cherryville, NC
- 08/20 06:00 PM : Town Hall - Charles A. Harry Cleveland County Administration Building, County Commissioners Chambers311 East Marion Street, Shelby, NC

Nebraska

Rep. Adrian Smith

- 08/04 10:00 AM 12:00 PM: Mobile Office Hours - Adams County Office Building, Assembly Room300 N. Saint Joseph, Hastings, NE
- 08/11 10:30 AM 12:30 PM: Mobile Office Hours - Courthouse, Drivers Exam Room501 Lincoln Avenue, York, NE

New Jersey

Rep. Steven Rothman

- 08/10 07:00 AM 09:00 PM: Listening Session - Borough Hall, 182 Market Street, Elmwood Park, NJ
- 08/10 01:00 PM 03:00 PM: Listening Session - Borough Hall, 214 Ridge Road, North Arlington, NJ
- 08/11 07:00 AM 09:00 PM: Listening Session - Municipal Complex, 275 Broad Avenue, Palisades Park, NJ
- 08/11 01:00 PM 03:00 PM: Listening Session - Senior Center, 24 Union Boulevard, Wallington, NJ
- 08/12 07:00 AM 09:00 PM: Listening Session - Borough Hall, 176 Park Avenue, Rutherford, NJ
- 08/12 01:00 PM 03:00 PM: Listening Session - Municipal Complex, 10 Kahn Terrace, Englewood Cliffs, NJ
- 08/13 07:00 PM 09:00 PM: Listening Session - City Hall, 65 Central Avenue, Hackensack, NJ
- 08/13 01:00 PM 03:00 PM: Listening Session - Municipal Complex, 1203 Paterson Plank Road, Secaucus, NJ
- 08/14 10:00 AM 12:00 PM: Listening Session - Borough Hall, 510 Route 46 West, Teterboro, NJ
- 08/14 01:00 PM 03:00 PM: Listening Session - Borough Hall, 59 Anderson Avenue, Fairview, NJ

Oklahoma

Rep. Frank Lucas

- 08/06/2009 04:00 PM 05:00 PM: Town Hall - Cordell Police Department, Community Room105 W. Main Street, Cordell, OK
- 08/06 11:00 AM 12:00 PM: Town Hall - Hollis Civic Center, 208 W. Jones Street, Hollis, OK

- 08/06 04:00 PM 05:00 PM: Town Hall - Western Oklahoma State College, Room H-92801 N. Main Street, Altus, OK
- 08/06 11:00 AM 12:00 PM: Town Hall - Anadarko City Hall, 501 W. Virginia Avenue, Anadarko, OK
- 08/06 09:00 AM 10:00 AM: Town Hall - Fire Department, Community Room115 E. Main Street, Hinton, OK
- 08/06 02:00 PM 03:00 PM: Town Hall - Western Technology Center, Seminar Room1000 S. Bailey Street, Hobart, OK
- 08/06 01:30 PM 02:30 PM: Town Hall - Mangum Brick Company, Conference Room2316 N. Louis Tittle Avenue, Mangum, OK

Oregon

Rep. David Wu

- 08/10 05:00 PM 06:00 PM: Town Hall - McMinnville Police Station, 121 SW Adams Street, McMinnville, OR
- 08/11 12:00 PM 01:00 PM: Town Hall - Good Samaritan Hospital, Building 2 Auditorium1040 NW 22nd Avenue, Portland, OR
- 08/13 04:00 PM 05:00 PM: Town Hall - Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway Street, Seaside, OR
- 08/14 04:00 PM 05:00 PM: Town Hall - Columbia Learning Center, 375 South 18th Street, St. Helens, OR

South Carolina

Rep. Bob Inglis

- 08/03 07:00 PM : Town Meeting - Mauldin City Hall, 5 East Butler Road, Mauldin, SC
- 08/04 06:30 PM : Town Meeting - Cowpens Library, 181 School Street, Cowpens, SC
- 08/06 07:00 PM : Town Meeting - Upstate Family Resource Center, 1850 Old Furnace Road, Boiling Springs, SC

- 08/17 07:00 PM : Town Meeting - Sue Cleveland Elementary School, 375 Woodmont School Road, Piedmont, SC
- 08/18 07:00 PM : Town Meeting - Travelers Rest Library, 17 Center Street, Travelers Rest, SC
- 08/20 07:00 PM : Town Meeting - R.D. Anderson Applied Tech. Ctr., 1151 Moore Duncan Hwy 290, Moore, SC
- 08/24 07:00 PM : Town Meeting - New Prospect Elementary School, 9251 Highway 9, Inman, SC
- 08/25 07:00 PM : Town Meeting - Lake Forest Elementary, 16 Berkshire Avenue, Greenville, SC

Texas

Rep. Ted Poe

- 08/05 06:00 PM : Town Hall - American Legion Hall, 14890 Fm 2100 Road, Crosby, TX

Rep. Michael Burgess

- 08/08 02:00 PM 03:00 PM: Town Hall - North Central Texas College, Administration Building, Little Theater 1525 California Street, Gainesville, TX
- 08/08 10:00 AM 11:00 AM: Town Hall - Center for the Visual Arts, 400 East Hickory Street, Denton, TX

Virginia

Rep. Jim Moran and Howard Dean

- 08/25 07:00 PM 09:00 PM (doors open at 06:00PM): Town Hall - South Lakes High School Auditorium, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston, VA

Rep. Rich Boucher

- 08/18 09:00 AM: Town Hall - Edwards Hall, New River Valley Community College, Dublin, VA
- 08/20 09:00 AM: Town Hall - Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, Abingdon, VA

Washington

Rep. Adam Smith

- 08/25 07:00 PM 08:30 PM: Town Hall - Lakewood City Hall, 6000 Main Street SW, Lakewood, WA

Wisconsin

Sen. Russ Feingold

- 08/08 10:30 AM 11:30 AM: Listening Session - Chaseburg Village Hall, 400 Depot Street, Chaseburg, WI
- 08/08 07:30 AM 08:30 AM: Listening Session - La Crosse City Hall, 400 La Crosse Street, La Crosse, WI

Rep. Thomas Petri

- 08/05 09:00 AM 10:00 AM: Town Hall - Calumet County Courthouse, Room 025206 Court Street, Chilton, WI
- 08/05 11:00 AM 12:00 PM: Town Hall - Town of Buchanan Town Hall, N178 County Road N, Darboy, WI
- 08/06 09:30 AM 10:30 AM: Town Hall - City Hall, Council Chambers205 South Webster Avenue, Omro, WI
- 08/07 10:00 AM 11:00 AM: Town Hall - Village Hall, Community Center913 South Wisconsin Drive, Howards Grove, WI
- 08/07 02:30 PM 03:30 PM: Town Hall - Manitowoc Public Library, Balkansky Community Room707 Quay Street, Manitowoc, WI
- 08/10 09:30 AM 10:30 AM: Town Hall - Caestecker Public Library, Conference Room518 Hill Street, Green Lake, WI
- 08/10 02:30 PM 03:30 PM: Town Hall - City Hall, Activity Room A404 East Lake Street, Horicon, WI
- 08/13/2009 09:00 AM 10:00 AM: Town Hall - Community Center, 130 North Main Street, Oakfield, WI
- 08/13 03:30 PM 04:30 PM: Town Hall - Municipal Building, City Council Chambers106 Jones Street, Watertown, WI
- 08/14 10:00 AM 11:00 AM: Town Hall - Municipal Building, Council Chambers101 North Main Street, Adams, WI
- 08/14 01:00 PM 02:00 PM: Town Hall - Community Center, 500 Division Street, Wild Rose, WI
- 08/14 03:00 PM 04:00 PM: Town Hall - Marquette County Courthouse, Public Safety Training Room77 West Park Street, Montello, WI

10 Strategies for Congressional Town Hall Meetings

By Brad Fitch

The best political education I received was not from a graduate school course or even from working the committee rooms of Capitol Hill during my time as a congressional aide. My best lessons came when I traveled off the Hill to attend my congressman's town hall meetings.

As a press secretary for a suburban Maryland congressman, I worked the legislative issues by day and went to more than 100 town hall meetings at night. It was at places like the VFW Hall in Glen Burnie, Maryland, where I saw firsthand how certain strategies led the congressman to say during the car ride home, "We have to look into that person's issue tomorrow."

A survey by the Congressional Management Foundation showed that raising a question at a town hall meeting is one of the most effective methods for influencing undecided lawmakers. Here are the top 10 strategies for taking advantage of these unique opportunities:

1. Be Prepared.

Most people don't approach their Members of Congress with a well-researched, well-rehearsed pitch. Constituents who come to town hall meetings with thoughtful arguments, good data, and persuasive stories always get remembered.

2. Tell a Personal Story.

Members of Congress are always looking for firsthand accounts of the impact that policies have on their constituents. Think in advance of how a policy might affect you or your family, business, or community.

3. Use Numbers If You Have Them.

Politicians live for one thing: 50 percent plus 1. This keeps them re-elected and employed. Use numbers by mentioning things like, "I have 50 employees," "I represent 100 people in my union," or "There are 500 people in my community affected by this bill."

4. Be Respectful.

Some constituents start a conversation with, "I pay your salary so you better listen to me." It doesn't matter if you're talking to your grocer or a public official – starting any conversation with another person in a rude manner is not a very tactful way to persuade them.

5. Go in Groups.

Nothing says "listen to me" to a public official like an angry mob. This is not to suggest that you should bring pitch forks and torches to your next town hall meeting, but a chorus is better than a solo performance.

6. Talk to Staff.

Every Member brings staff to town hall meetings. Tell them your story before the meeting (also ask a public question during the meeting) and get their business cards.

7. Leave Paper.

Any documents passed to state-based staff will likely be faxed to the legislative assistant in Washington who covers your issue.

8. Follow Up Politely.

Politely persistent people are more likely to persuade politicians. Congressional offices are often overworked, so an elected official often responds to an individual who just follows up with a phone call a few weeks after attending a meeting

9. Get Your People to Multiple Meetings.

When we heard the same obscure question in Crofton as we heard in Annapolis, my Member of Congress said, "We'd better look into that." Hearing the same thing in different places signals to a politician that there may be a deeper problem afoot.

10. Demonstrate That You're Not Going Away.

If you continue to show your presence at town hall meetings, the legislator must deal with you, even if it's only to avoid an uncomfortable encounter at a future town hall meeting.

<http://capitoladvantage.com/whitepapers/townhallmeetings>

Talking Points for Congressional Town Hall Meetings

- 1). Introduce yourself and why you care about expanding opportunities for recovery. You know that people can and do recover from addiction to alcohol and other drugs and want to make it possible for others to get the help they need to recover.
- 2). Ask that Congress pass comprehensive health reform this year that fully and equitably includes addiction and mental illness prevention, treatment and recovery supports.
- 3). Over 25 million Americans suffer from untreated mental illness and/or substance use disorders. Medical experts agree that substance use disorders and mental illnesses are chronic diseases that can be prevented and treated effectively.
- 4). Only 10.4 percent of the 23.2 million people in need of help for a substance use disorder received any form of treatment in the past year.
- 5). The financial and social consequences of untreated mental illness and substance use disorders to the healthcare system, families and communities, child welfare and criminal justice systems, and to our nation as a whole, are staggering. In total, untreated addiction costs Americans \$400 billion per year.
- 6). In order to increase access to vital mental health and addiction treatment services, healthcare reform legislation must include addiction and mental health in the minimum benefits package, apply the Wellstone Domenici parity law to all plans, and provide funding for addiction/mental health prevention, screening and workforce development.