

NEED to
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TRAINING

How to meet with you member of Congress

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Setting up a meeting

Step 1: Find your Member of Congress and their Office Contact Information.

Step 2: Request a Meeting. Call the Office AND send an email.

Step 3: Let us know once you have a meeting set up.

Step 4: If you don't get a response for a meeting time, you can try to drop-by their office and politely ask for a meeting.

Preparing for your Meeting

Step 1: Research your Representative

Step 2: Define your goals

Step 3: Identify Roles

Step 4: Develop your agenda

Step 5: Prepare your follow-up plan

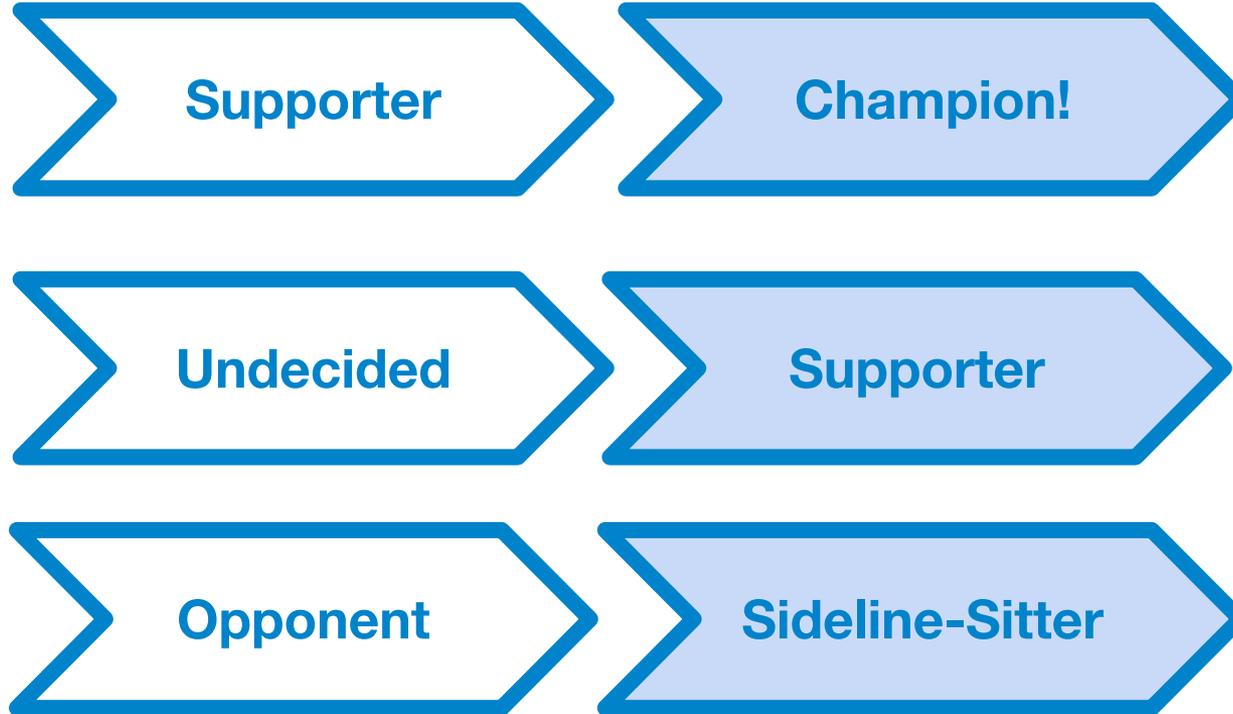
Step 1: Research your Representative

- What is their voting history and what have they said about impeachment?
- What in their background could be a point of connection on the issue?
- What relationships do they have with individuals/groups related to impeachment?

Step 2: Define Your Goal

- What do you want to get out of the meeting?
- What questions do you want answered?
If applicable, know what you are willing to concede on and what you're not.
- What are you going to ask your Representative to do?

Different Goals for Different People



Step 3: Identify Roles

- Meeting Leader
- Storyteller
- Pitcher
- Note taker
- Photo documenter
- Supporting Actors

Step 4: Develop your Agenda

- Introductions
- Introduce the issue--impeachment
- Share your personal stories
- Make “The Ask”
- LISTEN
- Strategic response
- Wrap-up, thank you, and next steps

Introduce the Issue

- Donald Trump is the biggest threat our democracy is facing and Congress must remove him from office to protect our constitution.
- We care deeply about the vitality of our state, country, and democracy--and Donald Trump is a direct threat to all three.
- The Mueller report made clear that it's up to Congress to hold Donald Trump accountable.

Personal Stories

- **Tell your story:** Sharing why you support impeachment is a powerful way to advocate and educate members of Congress. Stories provide emotional resonance and breathe life into issues in ways other tactics cannot.
- **Keep the conversation specific** to the state or district: Members want to know how the state or district they represent will particularly be affected by impeachment.

Making “The Ask”

- An effective meeting with a Member of Congress provides the member with a clear, firm request.
- For example, the request may be to vote “yes” or “no” on a piece of legislation or to introduce legislation on a specific topic (i.e. draft articles of impeachment).

Listen. Better Yet, Actively Listen!

- You want to be talking about 50% of the time and actively listening the rest of the time.

Your Strategic Response

- Your strategic response should incorporate the concerns that your representative raised--don't just restate your initial ask.
- Try to aim for a firm yes or no in case they don't directly address the impeachment issue
- If you are speaking with an aide, and they say they can't speak on behalf of the rep, ask them if they will recommend support.

Wrap Up, Thank You, Next Steps

- Before you leave restate/clarify any commitments that were made--either by your lawmaker/staff or your group.
- Reiterate that it is the responsibility of Congress to rein in a dangerous, lawless and reckless president.
- Thank the person for meeting with you and let them know you will be following up.

Step 5: Prepare your follow-up plan

- After your meeting, be sure to send an email to thank your lawmaker and/or your lawmaker's staff.
- Thank them for taking the time to meet with you and reiterate the asks that you made in your meeting. Send along any additional information that was requested.
- Your legislator and his/her staff will appreciate it – and it is a great way to remind them about your requests!

The political case for impeachment

- Acting on impeachment would force Senate Republicans to publicly stand with Mr. Trump.
- The impeachment process can sway public opinion and force a reckoning among the President's partisan defenders.
- The stage is already set for a Trump reckoning. Most Americans strongly dislike Mr. Trump; 55% of independents disapprove of his presidency, and 30% of conservatives say they won't vote for him in 2020.

Troubleshooting Denied Meetings

- If you can't schedule a meeting, drop by during in-district work session and politely request to speak with your member or a staffer
- Request a meeting around a specific impeachable offense (e.g. freedom of the press or immigration)

9 Cruelly and Unconstitutionally Imprisoning Children and their Families

- Enforcing its new “zero tolerance” policy, the Trump administration separated **as many as 3,000 immigrant children** from their parents at the southern border. This policy was meant to deter families from attempting to cross the border.
- The children and their families have been held in internment camps and cages with what lawyers call “**inhumane conditions**”
- Due to negligence, the Trump administration **has no plan to reunite all children with their families**, even deporting some parents while their children remain detained.

Bottom line: *Trump's policy endangers thousands of immigrant children and families, and defies basic Constitutional values.*

Thanks to Free Speech for People, 'New ground for impeachment hearings: cruel and unconstitutional imprisonment of children and their families,' served as content for this impeachable offense.

Troubleshooting Denied Meetings continued



- Tweet at your Rep with a photo of you outside their office
- Hold a rally or constituent meeting outside office & take photos

Anatomy of a tweet

- Short: under 280 characters--but most are around 33
- Use a “handle,”(@) to get someone’s attention or to show you are with a group
- Consider using a hashtag (#) or two
- Consider including a photo, shot in landscape (horizontal)

📌 Pinned Tweet



Need To Impeach @Need2Impe... · 21 Mar
.[@LindseyGrahamSC](#): grow a backbone.

Remember when you said Donald Trump wasn't fit for office?

What happened to you?



9,388 views



132



373



896



Hot Tips

- Include a link to take action
- Don't engage with trolls
- Consider planning out your posts/tweets ahead of time
- Consider using live video to be your own newscaster
- Consider delegating the “social media captain” role to someone in your group

Need To Impeach Retweeted



Aaron Soriano @aaroninbrooklyn · 17h

1,000+ NYers and @Need2Impeach volunteers at the #ReleaseTheReport rally in NYC. Join them in making sure Congress knows that Americans deserve to see exactly why Mueller could not exonerate this President

needtoimpeach.com/volunteer – at Times Square



28

44



Photo & Video How-To

- Make sure your cell phone is fully charged
- Ask before you take photos and videos. Don't film a constituent meeting without consent!
- Shoot videos in landscape
- Keep steady: Brace your elbows against your torso to turn your body into a tripod.



General Advice for Constituent Meetings

- Practice!
- There's no reason to be nervous when meeting with Members of Congress. Remember, they work for you.
- Arrive on time and be considerate of your Representative's and their staff's time constraints.
- When speaking, be courteous and concise.
- Generally speaking, don't try to film your constituent meetings without consent.

What's next?

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