



## KEEP US IN THE LOOP

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Let us know who your points of contact are, when your meetings are taking place, the successes you're having, the strategies that are working, the efforts where you need help. Film your meetings and share them with us.

Best of luck with establishing a vibrant and effective Congressional Community!

## CONTACT US

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[CONGRESSIONALCOMMUNITIES.ORG](http://CONGRESSIONALCOMMUNITIES.ORG)

[INFO@CONGRESSIONALCOMMUNITIES.ORG](mailto:INFO@CONGRESSIONALCOMMUNITIES.ORG)

## OUR CULTURE

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BEHAVE AS YOU WOULD WITH A GOOD FRIEND. REMEMBER, WE'RE BUILDING LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIPS.

- We're Respectful to Each Other
- We Welcome Opposing Viewpoints
- We Let Others Finish
- We're Brief (and Avoid Profanity)
- We Focus on Congress
- We Don't Identify by Party

We Come Here To Peaceably Assemble;  
To Speak Freely;  
To Listen To Differing Opinions -  
With Good Governance Our Goal.

A CONGRESSIONAL  
COMMUNITY

HOW TO  
START





# 1. HOST A WORKSHOP

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WE'LL HELP YOU EXPLAIN THE IDEA TO YOUR COMMUNITY

Let us know where you live. We'll share the material you'll need with your friends and neighbors. Once you've recruited 5 or 6 people to attend, if you're local, we will work with you to schedule a presentation. If you're not nearby, we'll either do the workshop remotely or train you to do it yourself.



# 2. RECRUIT OTHERS

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WE ARE BUILDING A NON-PARTISAN MOVEMENT THAT WELCOMES A DIVERSITY OF OPINIONS. MANY, MANY PEOPLE WILL WELCOME THIS.

Reach out to your friends and others in your area to let them know what we're creating. You might find it helpful to emphasize that you're part of a group that wants to focus on solutions to problems, rather than on people or parties.



# 3. SCHEDULE A MEETING

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FIND A GOOD PLACE TO MEET - WELL LIT, PUBLIC AND SAFE. (AMPLE, FREE PARKING DOESN'T HURT.)

Here's the arc of the meetings. The first few will be focused on a few things -- getting a letter ready to share with your member of Congress, and surveying the people in your group on the issue areas most important to them. The meetings will shift to in-depth presentations on those issues and possible solutions, as well as an exchange of ideas with your Congress member and their staff.

# 4. GET THE WORD OUT

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KEEP LETTING PEOPLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY KNOW ABOUT YOUR MEETINGS AND THE GROUP.

Don't get discouraged if early meetings draw small crowds. In normal times, members of Congress can also have a hard time drawing people. But have faith, that as you build a reputation for both seriousness of purpose and engaging discussions in a friendly atmosphere, membership will grow.



# 5. CONNECT WITH CONGRESS

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ESTABLISH LINES OF COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR REPRESENTATIVE AND THEIR STAFF.

Be respectful. Be helpful. Believe it or not, most members of Congress are serious about representing their districts well. Their staff are often mission-driven people who are highly motivated. However, they're stretched thin. On average, district staff is limited to 5 or 6 people.

What you're shooting for is this:  
Getting a staff member to your monthly meetings;  
Getting a meeting in your community with your representative - ideally, two-a-year, but annually is okay; and providing staff with reliable information about what your community at-large thinks about the issues most important to them.

