

HOW TO ENGAGE LAWMAKERS ON GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Using town halls, public events and meetings



Members of the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate will be home in their districts a number of times throughout the year. Those are great times to meet and talk with them about issues that matter to you - particularly gun violence prevention! This toolkit is to provide you with suggestions on how to make that happen.

As you know, every day people like us around the country have been showing up at town halls and public events to ask questions and challenge our representatives in Congress, causing some representatives to shut down town halls. Congress represents the people - and we the people, have a right to ask questions and demand accountability to free America from gun violence.

As such, we are sharing here some tips and suggestions on how you can make your voice heard so that we can get to

real solutions to end the epidemic of gun violence and more. Thank you in advance and let's do this!!

Upcoming dates when members of Congress will be in-district/state:

Please note these dates are subject to change. These dates are the House recesses; Senate recess dates may vary slightly. Check www.house.gov and www.senate.gov.

- **March 17-21**
- **April 11-27**
- **May 23-June 2**
- **June 14-22**
- **July 25-September 1**

**Fridays - generally House members are in their district*

STEP 1: Is your Member of Congress holding a town hall meeting or other public event?

Depending on who your member is, they may or may not be holding a town hall meeting, so check to see if they are planning to do other in-person events in the district.

Here are some tips to find out:

1. Call their local office and ask if they are holding any town halls or public events that are cost-free and how to register.
 - Find your House representative, your senators, and their contact [here](#).
 - If they are not holding any public events, express your concern and ask for a meeting while they are in town.
2. While you are on their website, check out if there is any information there.
3. Sign up for their newsletter and email alerts.
4. Follow their social media.

STEP 2: If there is an upcoming town hall or public event

1. Make sure to register, if it requires advance registration.
2. Reach out to your chapter members, friends, family or local partner orgs to ask them to join you. Make sure you share the date, time, location and registration link, if any.
 - Your message to others should mention the importance of speaking up on gun violence and demanding that our elected representatives take action to save lives.
 - Sample message (feel free to edit):
 - Hi All - [Lawmaker name] is holding a town hall meeting on [date] while [she/he/they] is home in the district during recess. I'm going to attend to ask them questions about taking action on gun violence. With all that is

going on in our country right now, gun violence is not ending, and I want to know if they will fight to save lives. I would love to have a group of us go, so we can ask different questions on the issue! Can you join me? The town hall is on [date, time, location]. Let's meet up (30 min to an hour) in advance to have a coffee and strategize how we will try to get our questions answered. Please let me know if you can join me. Thank you!

- Try your best to gather a group of 3-5 people. Even if it's two or just you, it's great!
3. Reach out to your local Indivisible chapter, if there is one. They may be planning to go as a group.
 - You can find local Indivisible chapters and events [here](#).
 - If they are going, then you have a readymade group to go with!
 - Share your gun violence prevention questions with them! Brady national has shared our questions with the national Indivisible team, so they are aware we will be reaching out to them at the local level with our questions.
 - If you cannot make the town hall, perhaps one of them will ask one of our questions. Doesn't hurt to ask!
 4. Print out copies of your questions to share with your group.
 5. Get there early so you and your group can strategize best places to sit and spread out.
 6. Decide amongst the group who will video record if someone from your group will get to ask their question.
 - Record asking your question, even if your representative doesn't answer you. Non-answers can be just as powerful in showing which legislators are serious about preventing gun violence.
 - Didn't get a chance to ask your representative your question? Post on social media and tag your representative after the town hall to bring attention to gun violence prevention.
 7. Share your videos and pictures with us so that we can amplify your efforts! [Fill out our form](#) or email us at chapters@bradyunited.org, tag [@bradybuzz](#) on Instagram, [@bradybuzz](#) on X, [@bradyunited.org](#) on Bluesky, or [Brady: United Against Gun Violence](#) on Facebook.
 8. Safety: If you are a Brady chapter member, please remember to follow our Grassroots Safety Protocols, which you can access by emailing us at chapters@bradyunited.org. You can also read Indivisible's safety protocols [here](#). (And if you are not a Brady grassroots member, please consider signing up to [join a local Brady chapter](#) or a [local youth-led Team ENOUGH chapter](#) — we need you in this movement!)

STEP 3: If there is no upcoming town hall or public event

1. Make sure to call your representative or senator's office and let them know of your disappointment and request a meeting.
 - If they schedule a meeting, do the above and bring people with you to ask questions!
2. If they say no to a meeting:
 - Post about it on social media, tagging them and Brady's accounts so that we can amplify.
 - Write a letter to the editor.
 - Contact local press and share a brief quote.
3. Local Indivisible chapters are organizing town halls with neighboring districts and asking those Congressional reps to attend an "Empty Chair Town Hall," each out to a [local Indivisible chapter](#) to get involved.
 - Ask to be a speaker at that event or to be one of the people who gets to ask a question.
 - If there is no Indivisible chapter in the area doing this, contact us at chapters@bradyunited.org and we can help you lead this action in your area!

STEP 4: Let us know how it went!

1. Let us know if you are interested in taking action so that we can support your efforts! Please fill out [this form](#) and we will share more resources and information with you.
2. Keep in touch with your group - those that joined you and even those that did not. Congress will be in recess again several more times in the year and we need to keep up the momentum in the fight against gun violence!