



Attending Congressional Town Hall Events

Attending town hall or tele-town hall events held by members of Congress and posing a question is a great way to raise awareness of, and put a local face on, federal retirees and federal workforce issues.

What Are Town Halls?

Members of Congress hold town halls in their home states to connect with constituents, share legislative updates and take questions.

Traditionally, these town halls are held in community centers, churches, libraries and other public spaces. However, increasingly, members of Congress are relying on telephone conference services to hold “tele-town halls,” where constituents listen and participate from home over their phones. To find out when tele-town halls are scheduled, call or email your senators and representative and request to be put on their tele-town hall list. This will ensure you will be included each time one is held.

When Are Town Halls Held?

Typically, town halls are held during congressional recess periods. Consult the 2015 Congressional Recess Calendar [here](#) for exact dates.

Every member of Congress keeps his or her own schedule. You can contact the district or state office for your representative and senators and ask if (s)he has any town halls scheduled. You can also contact the NARFE Legislative Department for a list of town halls in your state, but the list accessed by Headquarters does not capture all schedule events.

What You Can Do

Attend a town hall and speak up! Be sure to wear your NARFE T-shirt or button.

Once a town hall or tele-town hall event is confirmed, team up with your local NARFE chapter and members to attend. The more NARFE members who attend, the more likely your voices will be heard.

Come armed with facts and questions for your senators or representative. Below are some samples you can use.



Sample Town Hall Questions

- *Federal employees have already contributed \$120 billion to deficit reduction in the last four years. The House FY16 Budget asked for another \$318 from the federal community. While we are committed to serving the public and doing our fair share, these sacrifices have been unshared. What will you do to ensure that cuts won't unfairly target federal employees and retirees?*
- *Drastic changes to the USPS are being considered by Congress. Do you support maintaining 6-day mail delivery? What are your views on plant and office closures? Rural mail delivery?*
- *Federal retirees receive very modest pensions. The average FERS pension is less than \$1,000/month. Yet, there is a desire in Congress to ask federal employees to pay more for this already small pension. Do you support this?*
- *There was a recent push in the Senate to pay for the Highway Trust Fund Extension by reducing the rate of return on the G Fund in the TSP. This idea originated in the FY16 House Budget. The TSP is a vital part of federal employees' retirement package and reducing the rate of return on the G Fund would make the fund practically worthless by reducing the rate of return to almost nothing. The estimated \$32 billion in savings would never be realized as TSP participants would have left the G Fund. This proposal would have impacted 4.3 million people, including retirees and military personnel. Will you pledge to oppose any large pieces of legislation that it might get tied to?*
- *Over 22 million people have been impacted by the security breaches at OPM. How do you feel they should be compensated for this invasion of privacy and possible financial implications?*
- *Some in Congress are calling for drastic cuts to the federal workforce. I am a former [profession] in charge of [task]. How will you explain to your constituents why they are going to get less of [service]?*



Following the Town Hall, Tell Us You Attended

Email advocacyinaction@narfe.org to tell Headquarters about the town hall. This information is important in our continued communications with members of Congress.