



Meeting with a Candidate

During the election season, it is important to introduce yourself to congressional candidates and discuss NARFE issues with them. This is an opportunity to teach them about the issues we care about and to learn about their views of federal employees and retirees. It also can serve as the first step in building a strong relationship with potential members of Congress.

Schedule the Meeting

- To invite a candidate to meet with you, modify the [Template Meeting Request for In-State Visit letter](#). To invite the candidate to come to a chapter meeting, modify the [Template Meeting Request for Chapter Meeting letter](#).
- If you cannot find contact information for the campaign scheduler, call the campaign headquarters and ask how they would like you to send a meeting request letter. Some campaigns may have a certain process for invitations, so be sure to follow their directions carefully.
- Follow up with the campaign a few days after sending the invitation. Be flexible in the scheduling process as candidates for federal office are very busy. Once you schedule a date, follow up a few days before the event to reconfirm.

During the Meeting

- Introduce yourself and give a short summary of your federal work experience. Discuss how many federal employees live in the district/state and what type of work they do (refer to the state-specific [At a Glance](#) document and give them a copy).
- Provide the candidate with a brief overview of what NARFE is and our priorities. Give them [NARFE's Priorities for the 113th Congress](#), and discuss how these issues affect the federal community. This is especially important if they are a current state Representative or Senator, as they may not be well-versed in federal employee and retiree issues but may have some familiarity with state employees.
- Explain how federal employees and retirees have been targeted over the past several years, including being subject to a three-year pay freeze, furloughs as a result of sequestration and constant additional threats from Congress. The [Federal](#)



[Employee Deficit Reduction Contribution Fact Sheet](#) can be helpful in explaining the sacrifices.

- Ask them for their opinion on the issues NARFE cares about most. Use the [Candidate Questionnaire](#) as a basis for your questions. If they have already responded to the questionnaire, ask them follow-up questions regarding their positions or express gratitude/disappointment at their responses.
- Express the sentiment that you look forward to building a relationship with them and that you hope they can look to you and NARFE for guidance in the future.
- Do not discuss the NARFE-PAC if you are meeting with an elected official in his/her official capacity. It is not appropriate to discuss contributions when meeting with a legislator or staff in the official office. However, if attending a fundraiser with a current legislator or meeting with a candidate who does not currently hold elected office, it is ok to discuss NARFE-PAC.

After the Meeting

- Send a [Thank You](#) letter to the candidate for meeting with you. In this letter, follow up with any information the candidate may have asked for or that you may have offered to provide.
- Share the outcome of the meeting with others in your NARFE chapter. Discuss ways to continue building the relationship and whether your chapter will take any action to support or oppose the candidate's campaign.