

PASS Legislative Workshop



Grassroots Lobbying

- Grassroots lobbying refers to any technique that delivers information to members of Congress from constituents – the people back home who vote

You Already
Have Almost
Everything You
Need

- Your life
- Your professional expertise &
- Your local experiences

Provide you with almost everything you need to know to fight for the issues you care about – no matter what specific request you make

Overview of Capitol Hill: House of Representatives

- 435 members
- 221 Democrats, 212 Republicans, 0 Independent and 2 vacancies
- Entire House is elected every 2 years (i.e. 2020, 2022, 2024)



Overview of Capitol Hill: U.S. Senate

- 100 Senators
- 50 Republicans, 48 Democrats, and 2 Independents
 - Independents Bernie Sanders (VT) and Angus King (ME) caucus with Democrats
- Serve 6-year terms
- One-third of the Senate is elected every two years – in 2022
 - 20 Republican seats are up for election
 - 14 Democratic seats are up for election





House Committees

■ Appropriations

- Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

■ Transportation & Infrastructure

- Subcommittee on Aviation

■ Oversight and Reform

- Subcommittee on Government Operations



Senate Committees

- Appropriations
 - Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
- Commerce, Science & Transportation
 - Subcommittee on Aviation and Space
- Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs
 - Subcommittee on Federal Spending, Oversight and Emergency Management

Congressional Office Staffers in Washington, D.C.

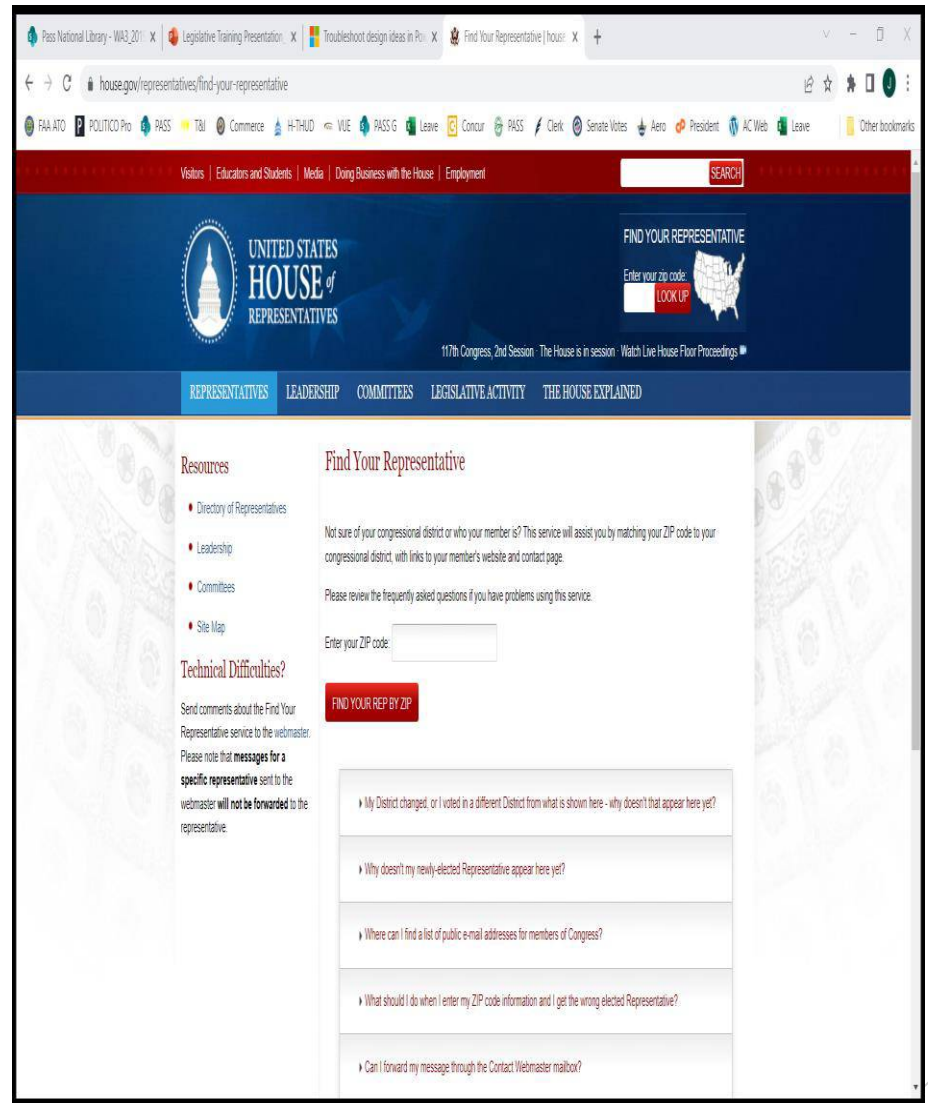
- Chief of Staff
- Legislative Director
- Legislative Assistant
- Press Secretary/Communications Director
- Scheduler



District/State Office Staffers

- District/State Director
- Caseworker/Constituent Services Representative
- Field Representative/Staff Assistant

Write Your Rep
<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>



Your Face-To-Face Meeting
With Your Member of
Congress/Staffer

Face-to-Face Meetings

- Best way to communicate PASS's positions on legislative issues
- Can meet in Washington, D.C. or in home district or state
- Can meet as part of PASS delegation or individually
- Can meet with your member of Congress or their staffers



Do's and Don'ts of Face-To-Face Meetings

- **DO:** Be well-informed
- **DO NOT:** Exaggerate or misrepresent the PASS position on any issue. Stick to an honest presentation of the facts. Avoid bargaining or trade-offs
- **DO:** Dress professionally

Do's and Don'ts (cont'd)

- **DO:** Leave a fact sheet on the issues with the person you are meeting with before you leave the meeting
- **DO:** Be courteous and respectful – even if the person you are meeting with disagrees with your position

Do's and Don'ts (cont'd)

- **DO NOT:** Argue with a member of Congress, or threaten them in any way
- **DO NOT:** Be afraid of your elected members of Congress

Do's and Don'ts (cont'd)

- **DO:** Invite your member of Congress to do a site visit to show him/her what your work environment is like. It's harder for a member of Congress to criticize your work if they have seen the value of it and it gives you more time with the member or staffer.

Checklist

- ▶ Research your issues and prioritize them
- ▶ Practice before your visit
- ▶ Have materials/issue papers prepared
- ▶ Stay on message
- ▶ Go local
- ▶ Make a clear request/have a specific ask
- ▶ Invite member of Congress for a site visit
- ▶ Ask about preferred method of communication for follow-up (i.e., email, phone, text, etc.)
- ▶ Send follow-up correspondence thanking your contact and highlighting the points of your meeting

Issue Discussion



Issues

Local Issues

- ▶ Staffing
- ▶ Training
- ▶ Safety
- ▶ Other

National Issues

- Preventing Government Shutdown
- Staffing
- Robust Agency Oversight & Funding

Political Activity



Electing Members of Congress

- The best way to ensure that members of Congress support legislation of concern to PASS is to help elect incumbents and candidates whom we know are supportive of our union and its members



Working on a political campaign

- Hatch Act rules determine what you can and cannot do
- Contact the Office of Special Counsel at 1-800-85-HATCH if you have questions

The logo for the PASS National Legislative Committee is a red speech bubble shape. It consists of a solid red rectangular box at the top, and a larger red shape below it that tapers to a point at the bottom, resembling a speech bubble. The text "PASS National Legislative Committee" is written in white, sans-serif font, centered within the red shape.

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