



Making the Most of NARFE's Hill Day

Jessica Klement
Staff Vice President, Advocacy

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Agenda

- Understanding Congress
- Understanding Committees
- Political Ideologies
- Know Before You Go
- Storytelling
- Additional Tips
- Examples and Practice

Understanding Congress

House of Representatives (218 for majority)

- 235 Democrats
- 197 Republicans
- 3 vacancies

Senate

- 53 Republicans
- 45 Democrats
- 2 Independents

Understanding Congress

House of Representatives Freshman

- 59 Democrats
- 29 Republicans

Senate Freshman

- 7 Republicans
- 2 Democrats

Presents opportunity to introduce NARFE

Understanding Committees

House of Representatives Committees

- Oversight and Reform
- Ways and Means
- Budget
- Appropriations
- Energy and Commerce

Does your Rep sit on any of these committees?

Understanding Committees

Senate Committees

- Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
- Finance
- Budget
- Appropriations

Does your Senator(s) sit on any of these committees?

Political Ideologies

- Congress is more polarized because America is more polarized
- Left is moving more left
- Right is moving more right
- Gerrymandering making it worse
- Gridlock is inevitable

Takeaway: Know your member's ideology before meeting

Political Ideologies

Caucus Membership

- Progressives
- New Dems
- Main Street/Tuesday Group
- Freedom Caucus

Know Before You Go

Committee Assignments

NARFE voting record

- Should you bring it up?

Large federal installations in/around district

Number of federal employees/retirees

NARFE-PAC contributions

- Should you bring them up?

Know Before You Go

Cosponsorships

- Easy way to say “thank you”
- Easy ask to make
- Easy way to make you happy

Attendance at NARFE meetings

Previous meetings with NARFE members

Background/Biography

Know Before You Go

Recent Votes

- 2.6 percent pay raise in House
- S.24 back pay for furloughed Fed

Did your members say anything about the shutdown?

Storytelling

What's important to YOU?

Is what's important to you important to your member of Congress?

How can you make your issues important?

What did you do for the government?

Can you talk about what didn't get done during the shutdown?

Storytelling

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Additional Tips

Focus on NARFE issues

Be polite

But don't be overly effusive

Read your audience

Have a game plan before meeting

Have an ask

Ok to say "I don't know"

Ok to take pictures

QUESTIONS?

Advocacy@narfe.org