

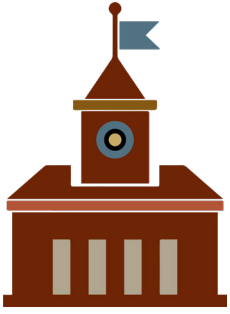


*Easy Read Edition*

# **Sharing Your Story For A Political Purpose**

## **Part 2: Town Halls**

# Words to Know in Part 2



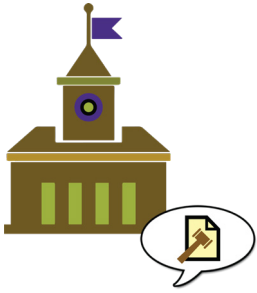
## Town Hall Meeting

A meeting that is open to everyone. People can come and ask questions about a problem or policy.



## General Meeting

A Town Hall where you can ask about anything.



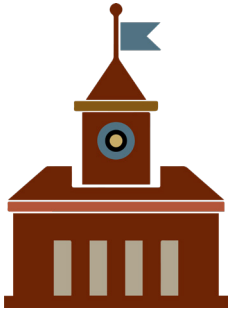
## Specific Meeting

A Town Hall to talk about one thing.

# Town Halls



Sometimes, members of government will hold Town Hall meetings.



**Town Hall meetings** are meetings that are open to everyone.



People can come and ask questions about a problem or policy.



Or, they can tell their members of government what they think.



This is a good chance to talk to members of the government in person.



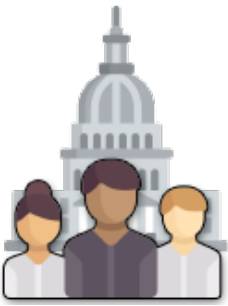
You can let them know about the problems that matter to you.



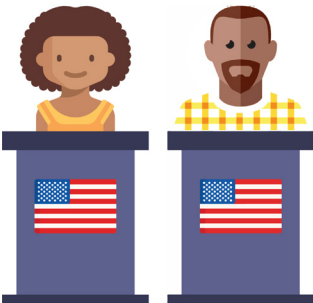
You can ask them questions without having a one-on-one meeting with them.

# Who holds Town Hall meetings? How can I find out when they happen?

There are many people who might hold town hall meetings:



- Your elected officials



- People who want to get elected to the government



- Government groups who want opinions about a specific policy



Town Hall meetings can have different people at them.



Sometimes, you will get to speak to your member of government.



Other times, you will speak to one of their staff.



They will report back to your member of government.





They will say what happened at the meeting.



So your member of government will still know what you said.



Members of government will list Town Hall meetings on their websites.



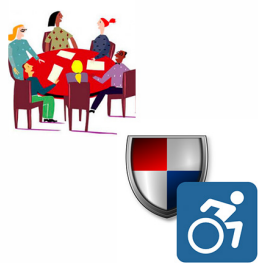
They will say where and when the Town Hall will happen.



You can check the websites of the members of government near you.

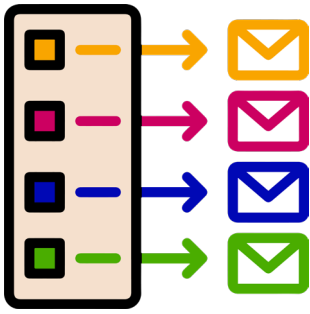


Some Town Halls focus on problems for people with disabilities.

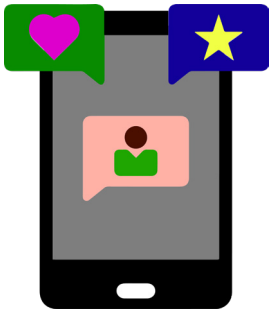


Your state DD Council and P&A might know about these.

You can ask them when Town Halls will happen.



You can also get on the mailing lists of disability advocacy groups.



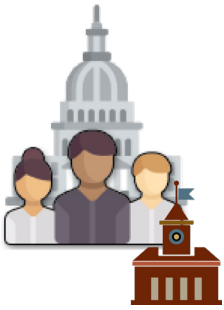
Or, you can follow them on social media.



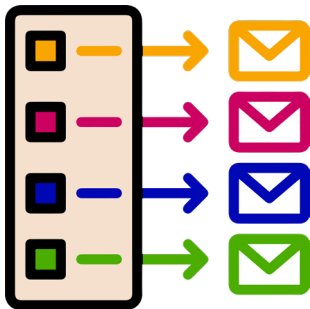
They may post about Town Halls, too.



Another good place to look is <http://townhallproject.com/>



They post Town Hall meetings for U.S. elected officials.

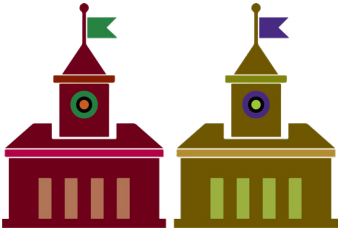


You can sign up for their mailing list at <https://actionnetwork.org/forms/stay-up-to-date-on-our-work>

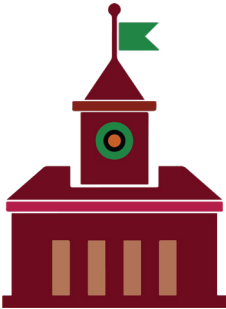


They will send you information about Town Halls where you live.

# What should I expect at a Town Hall meeting?



There are usually 2 types of Town Hall meetings.



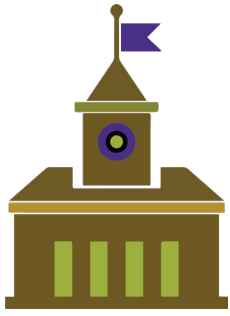
One kind is called a general meeting.



You can ask a member of government about anything at these meetings.



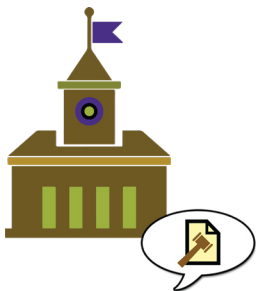
A **general meeting** is a Town Hall where you can ask about anything.



The other kind is called a specific meeting.



These meetings focus on one problem or policy.



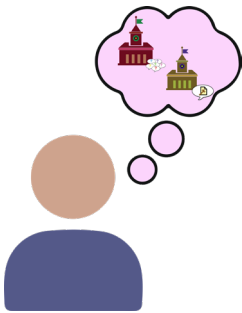
A **specific meeting** is a Town Hall to talk about one thing.



Be sure to check the information about the Town Hall.



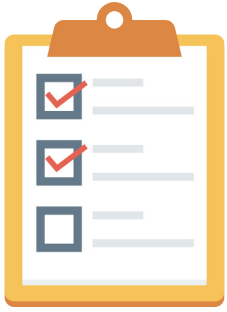
It should say what kind of meeting it will be.



You should know what kind of meeting it is before you go.



That will help you think about what you should say.



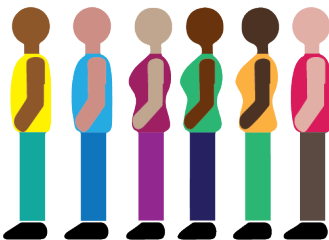
If you want to talk at the meeting, you might need to sign up on a sheet.



Or, you might need to line up in front of a microphone.



There will probably be a sign or staff person to tell you what to do.



Or, you can try to copy what the people around you are doing.

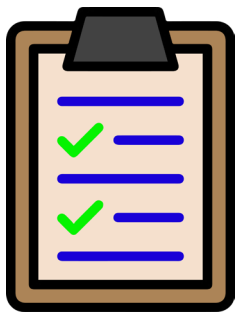




A lot of people usually come to Town Hall meetings.



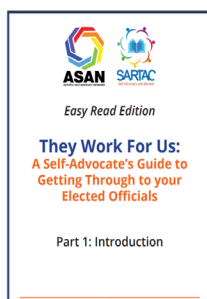
You will probably only get a couple of minutes to talk.



Plan ahead about the most important things you want to say.



Having an elevator speech prepared for the Town Hall can help.



Check the “They Work For Us” toolkit to learn more about elevator speeches.



It is a good idea to end your speech with a question.



That way, your member of government has to think about what you said.



It will help you learn more about what they think, too.



For example, Sally went to a Town Hall Meeting with Representative Smith.

Here is what she said at the meeting:



Hi, I'm Sally Jones, and I'm from Normaltown, California.



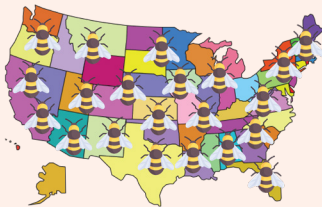
I'm a member of the Stop the Bees Community Group.



I would like to talk to you today about the Beekeeping Act.



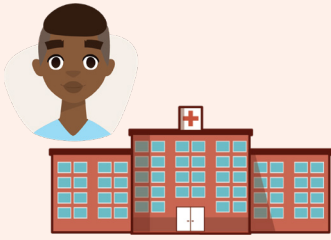
The Beekeeping Act would give money to build a bee colony away from our city.



Right now, there are so many angry bees all over the United States.



They have attacked me and my family.



They even sent my nephew to the hospital.



I was afraid just to leave my house to come here and meet you.



Everyone I've talked to is afraid of the bees.



They don't feel safe. We all deserve to feel safe in our cities.



Building this bee colony will give us back our safety.

Here is my question to you:



What will you do to make sure that Normaltown families are safe from the bees?



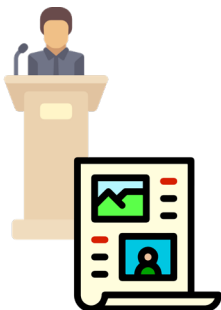
You can also bring a written paper with more information about the problem.



You can give the paper to your member of government or their staff.



They can read it and learn more after the meeting.



That way, you can give a short speech but still give all the important information