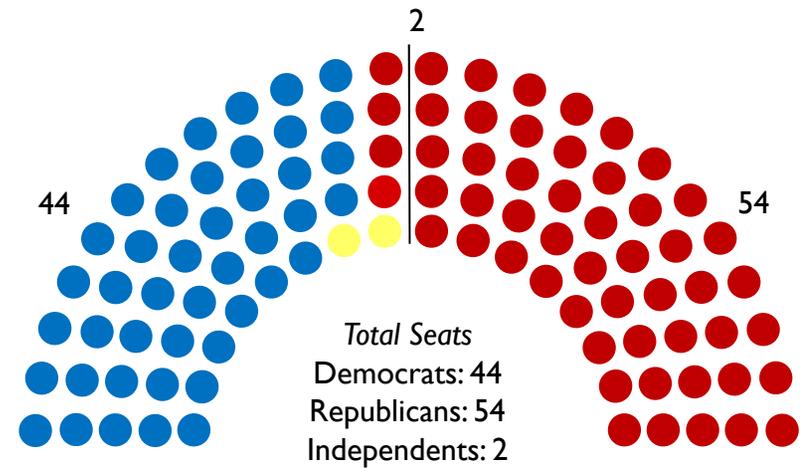
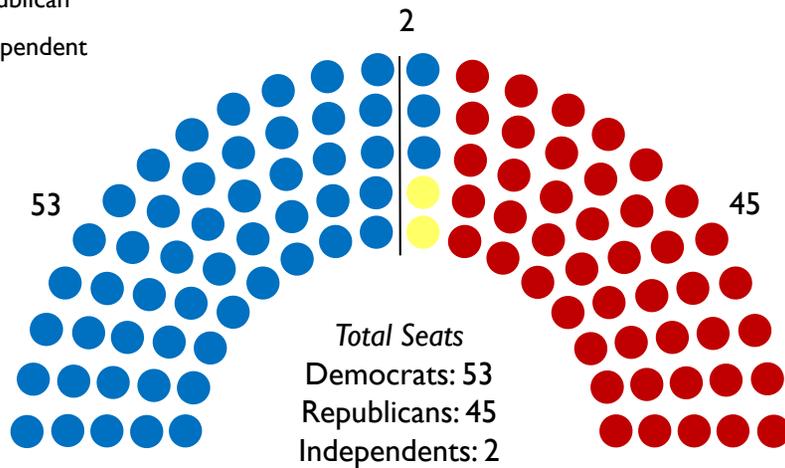


REPUBLICANS WIN SOLID MAJORITY IN SENATE

Control of the 113th Senate (2012-2014)

Control of the 114th Senate (2014-2016)

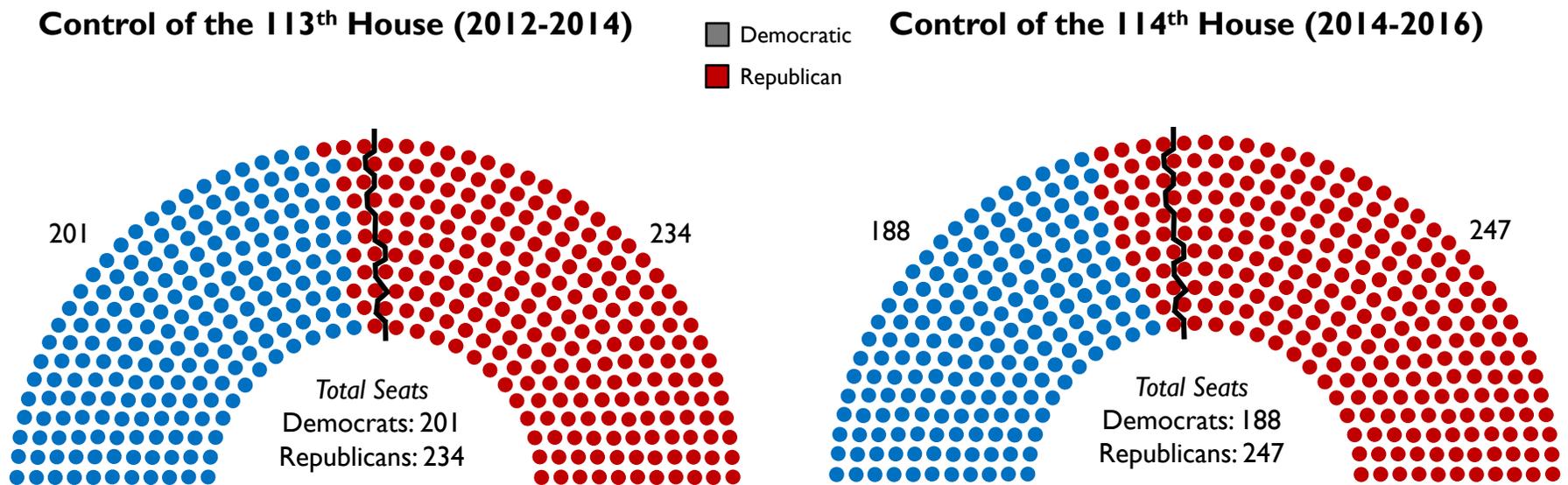
■ Democratic
■ Republican
■ Independent



Analysis

- Having won most of this year's competitive races, Republicans secured 54 Senate seats, flipping the Senate from blue to red
- A GOP win in Louisiana was announced on December 6, 2014
- Since Republicans expanded their majority to 54 seats, they will have an easier time passing legislation in the Senate because they will need fewer Democratic defections to overcome filibusters (which require a 60 vote supermajority)

REPUBLICANS WIN RECORD MAJORITY IN HOUSE

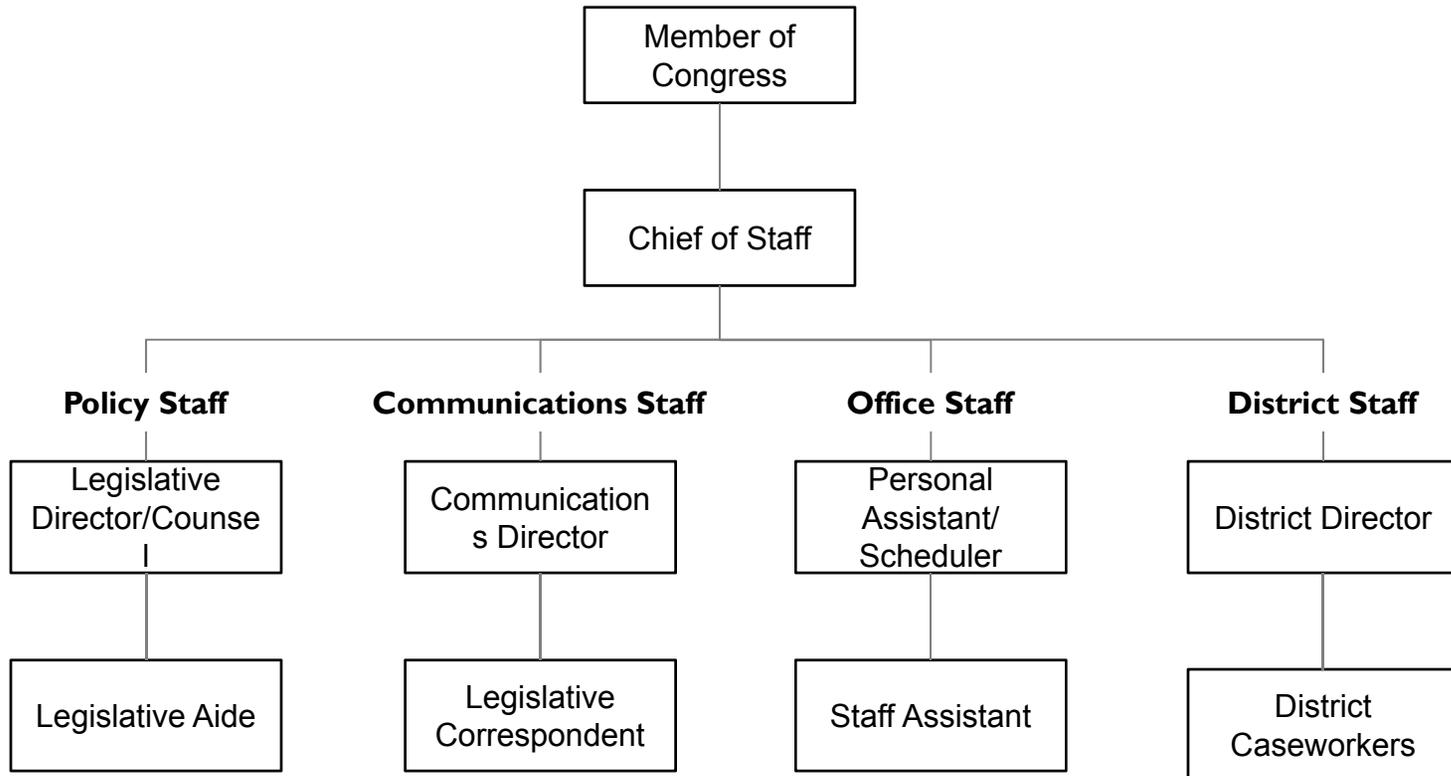


Analysis

- Republicans won a total of at least 246 seats in the House, their largest majority since 1928
- An expanded GOP majority in the House means that Speaker Boehner will have an easier time passing legislation in the House without Democratic support, and Republicans will also have an easier time holding on to their majority in future elections

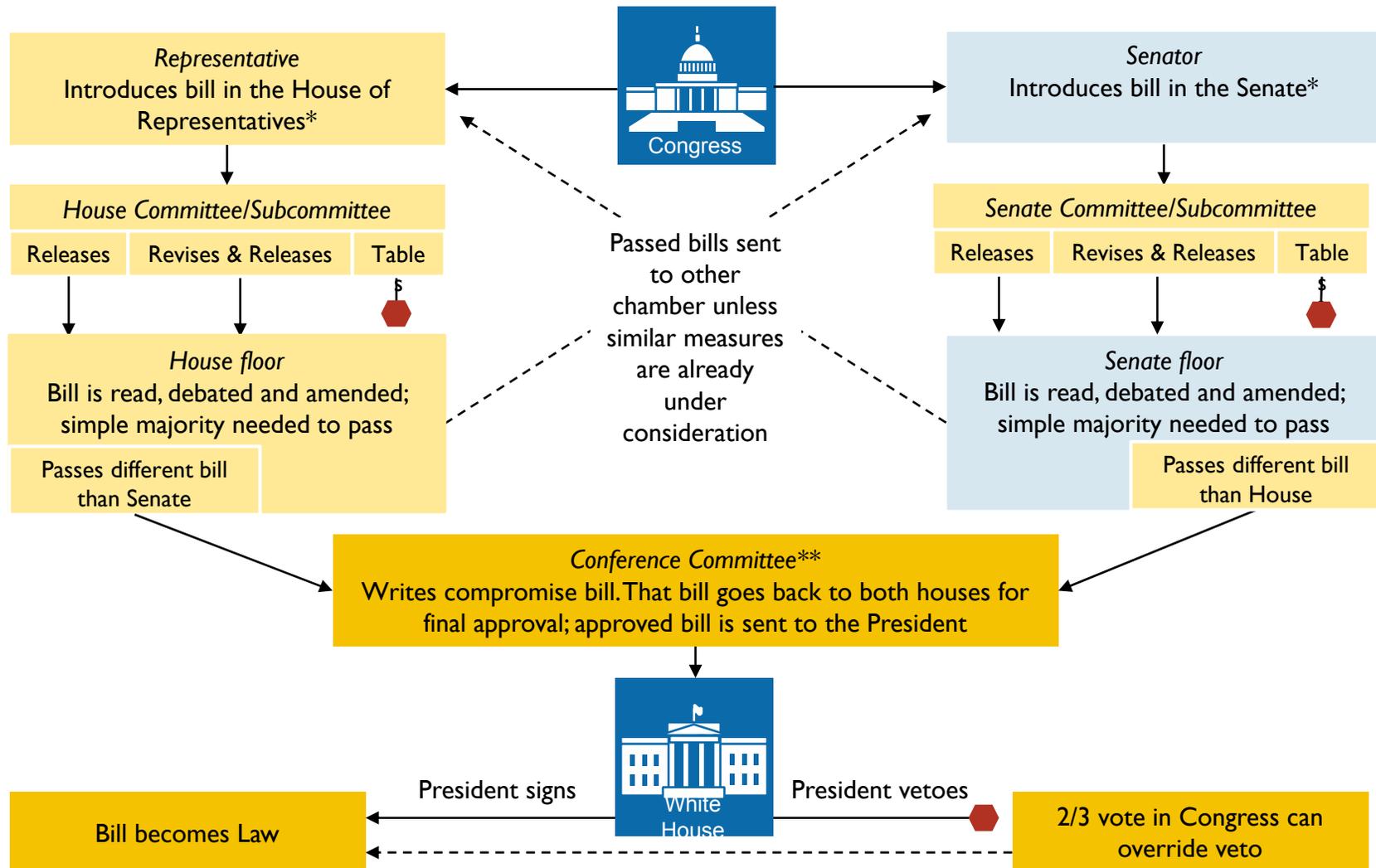
CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE STRUCTURE

Sample Organization of a Congressional Office



Source: "Hit the Ground Running: 112th Congress Edition," Office of Rep. Eric Cantor.

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

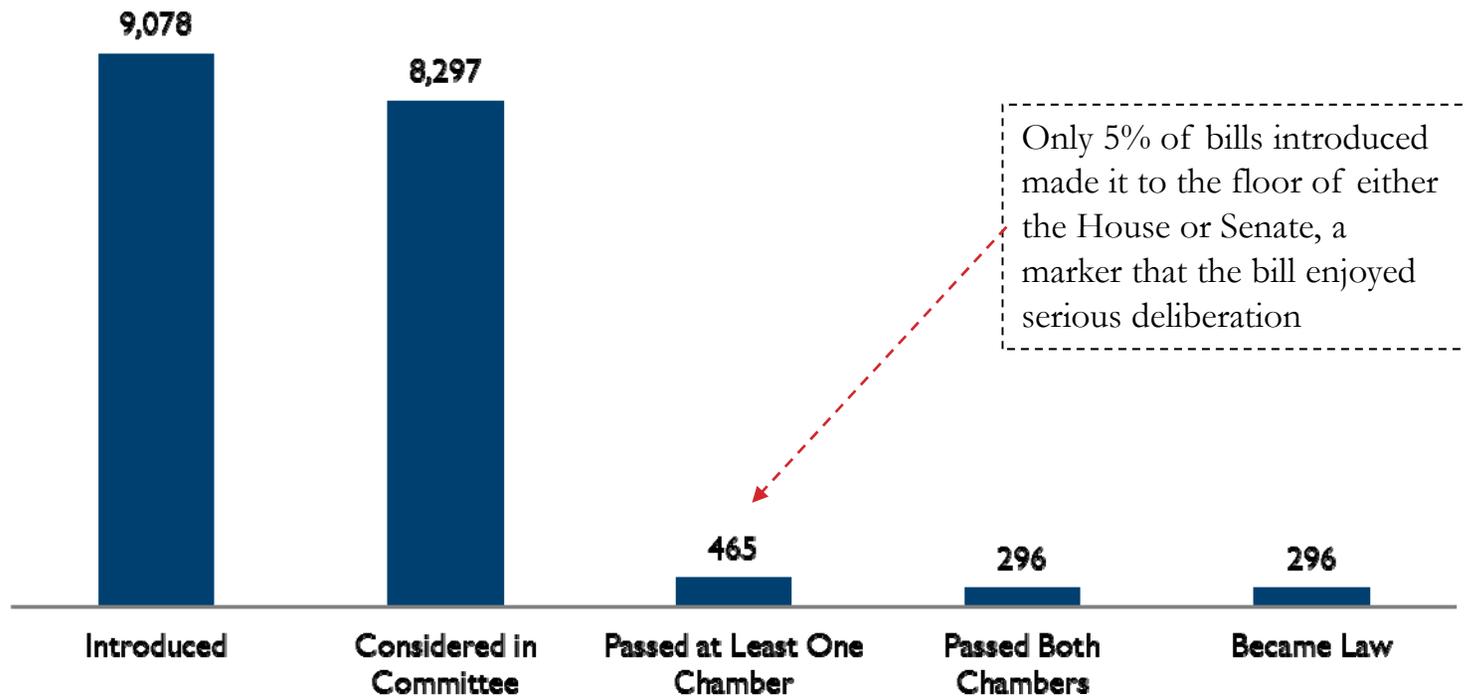


**Legislation may be introduced in either chamber except for tax law, which must originate in the House **Most major legislation goes to conference committee; When one chamber passes legislation originating in the other without making changes, bill goes directly to President*

More information on legislative processes can be found in [Federal Rulemaking](#). Visit NJ's Presentation Center to download the full deck.

ONLY 3% OF BILLS INTRODUCED IN 113TH CONGRESS BECAME LAW

Number of Bills and Joint Resolutions, by Stage of Consideration
(113th Congress)

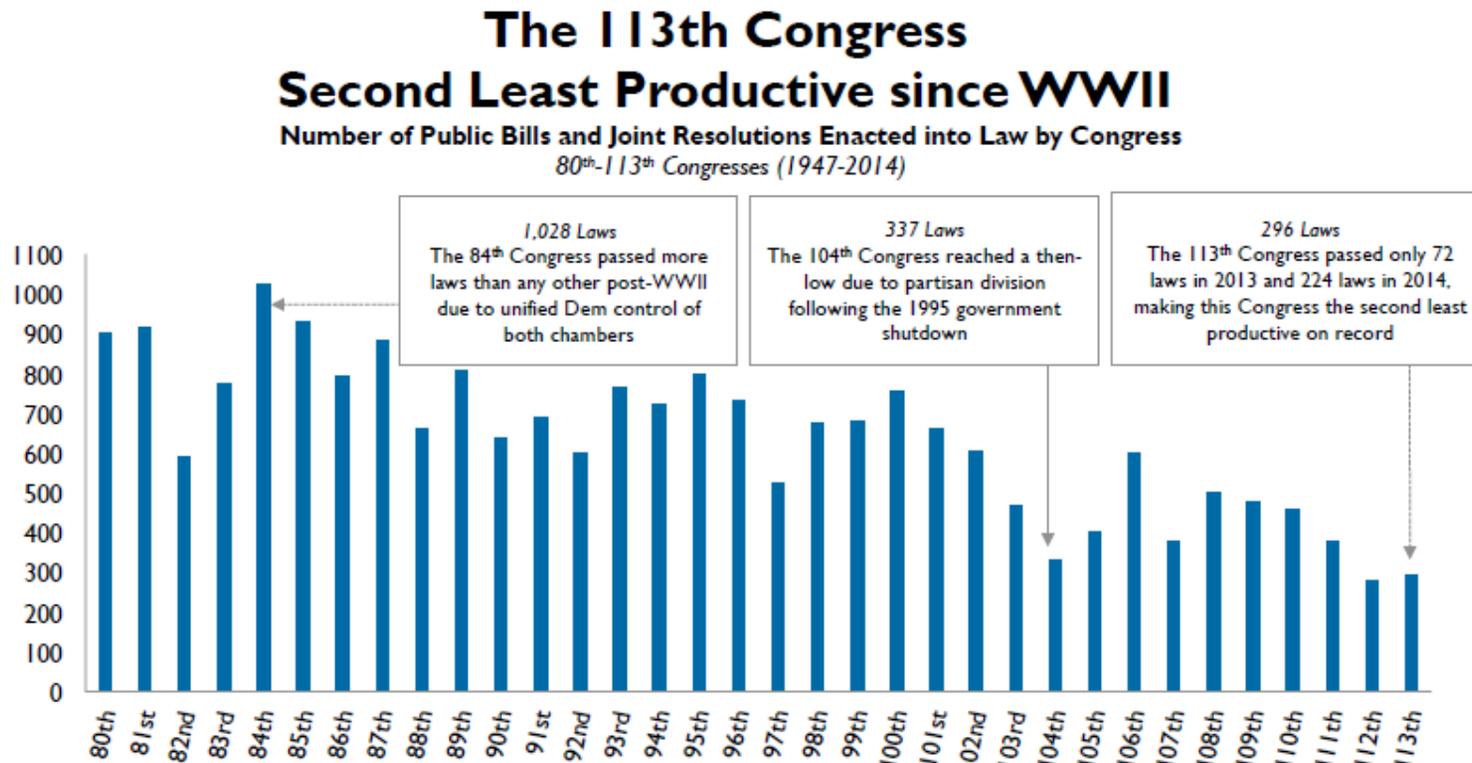


Analysis

- The vast majority of bills (97%) introduced in the 113th Congress failed to become law, and most never even came close; only 5% of bills introduced passed at least one chamber
- While there has been a recent trend of unproductivity in Congress, GOP leaders hope to pass more legislation in the 114th Congress

POLITICAL CONTEXT

Congress' overall productivity is diminishing over time:



Analysis

- By historical standards, the 113th Congress was incredibly unproductive; it enacted over one-half as many laws (296) as the average number of laws passed by the past 33 Congresses (653)
- Budget fights exacerbated unproductivity, as the time spent resolving impasses detracted from other priorities
- Even with budget struggles temporarily resolved for the 2015 fiscal year, the number of bills enacted remains below historic norms, as Congress now passes more legislation in omnibus form; many bills in the 84th Congress might be included in one today, for example

WHO SHOULD WE BE TALKING TO?



YOUR OWN SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES

- **You should always establish a good relationship with your own Senators and Representatives**
 - Invite them to events you have including council meetings; cultural events; facility tours
 - Make sure you know the district staff in your area.
 - Call local office to set up meetings
- **Visit www.senate.gov or www.house.gov to find your representatives**
- **It is recommended to know all representatives from your state – especially if they are on the relevant committees**

HOW TO SELECT A MEETING

Generally if a Member of Congress has three of the following criteria you should meet with them.

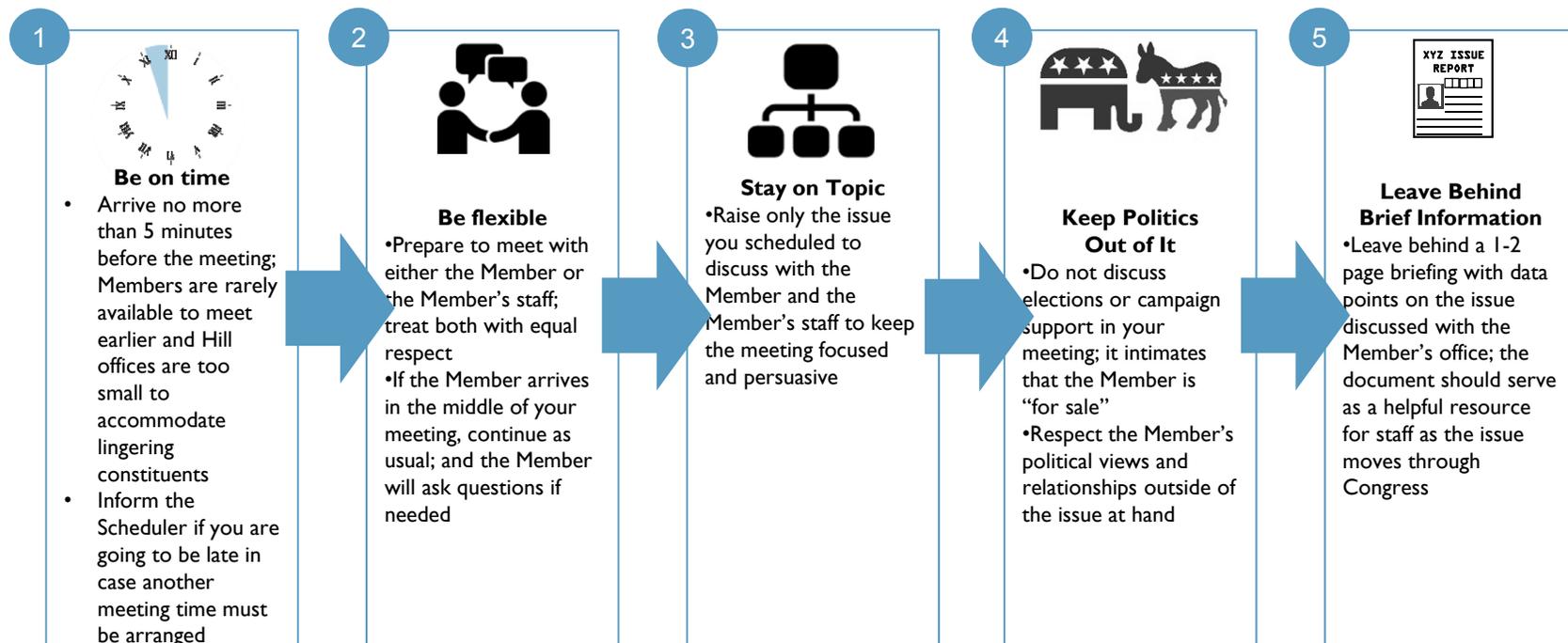
- On a Relevant Committee
 - Appropriations, both chambers (esp. Interior Subcommittee); House Ways and Means; House Energy and Commerce; House Natural Resources Subcommittee on American Indian and Alaska Native Affairs; Senate Committee on Indian Affairs; Senate Finance)
- Previous Supporter
- Member of Native American Caucus
- Tribes in District / State
- Member of House or Senate Leadership / Committee Chair / Subcommittee Chair

WHAT SHOULD WE BE SAYING?



PREPARING FOR MEETINGS WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

What to Keep in Mind When Conducting a Meeting with a Member of Congress



OTHER TIPS

- ❖ Arrive with some knowledge of the Member: What Committees are they on? How long in Congress? How close was their last election?
- ❖ Introduce yourself: Who are you and why you are important. Brag a little about cool things your Tribe/ health facility is doing at home.
- ❖ Get to the point: Don't spend a lot of time beating around the bush. Your overview and ask should be no more than **3 minutes**
 1. Be prepared to answer questions
 2. Offer your assistance to provide more information or to talk further



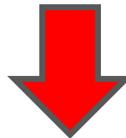
OTHER TIPS

- ❖ Assume the staffer/ Member doesn't know anything about AI/ANs: Make sure to explain why you are not an “Entitlement” and why federal trust responsibility is critical.
- ❖ Make it personal: Make sure to emphasize why this “ask” should matter at home. Will people lose services? Will there be jobs lost? What will happen to the community?



BUILDING YOUR STORY

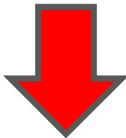
**WHO YOU ARE, AND WHAT YOUR COMMUNITY IS
LIKE**



**OVERVIEW OF THE BROAD ISSUE, INCLUDING YOUR
“ASK”**



STORY ON HOW THIS IMPACTS PEOPLE AT HOME



**RECAP OF ISSUE AND WHAT CONGRESS CAN DO TO
SOLVE IT**

FOLLOW UP!

Use Meeting Follow Up to Build Trust, Serve as Resource

Quick Takes

- Advocates can become trusted resources for lawmakers by following up and keeping in touch with Members of Congress after face-to-face meetings
- Advocates should consider the following actions to position themselves as effective and trustworthy advocates for their issue

Tips for Following Up a Meeting with a Member of Congress



Send a Thank You Message

- Send a follow-up e-mail several days after meeting with a Member
- Keep the message brief, thank the office for their time, and remind the office of the issue at hand
- Leave a link to a reliable source of information on the issue for the office to refer to



Attend Events in the District

- Attend town hall meetings or other public events in the district to build a stronger relationship with your representative
- Find opportunities to engage in policy matters in the district and serve as trustworthy resource to earn visibility for your issue



Stay in Touch

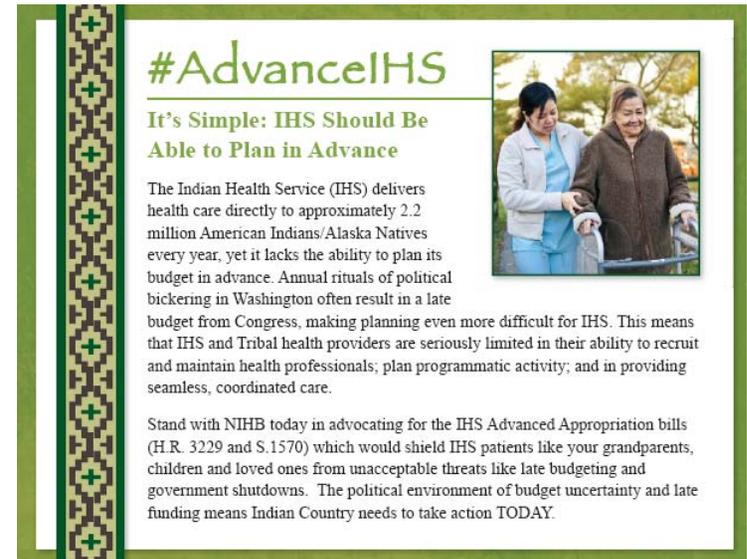
- Do not over-communicate with Members of Congress, but do pass along new information about your issue as it is released
- Communicate with your representative in a respectful and informative manner to gain the representative's respect—for you and your points of view

BUT WHAT IF YOU CAN'T GET
TO WASHINGTON DC??



WRITE!

- If you can't get a meeting with a Congressional Office at home or in the district write a letter from your Tribe
- Email is the best way – Find out who handles the issue at the staff level and send directly.
- Organize a letter-writing campaign
- Pass a Tribal Resolution
 - NIHB can help with sample letters and Resolutions



#AdvanceIHS

It's Simple: IHS Should Be Able to Plan in Advance

The Indian Health Service (IHS) delivers health care directly to approximately 2.2 million American Indians/Alaska Natives every year, yet it lacks the ability to plan its budget in advance. Annual rituals of political bickering in Washington often result in a late budget from Congress, making planning even more difficult for IHS. This means that IHS and Tribal health providers are seriously limited in their ability to recruit and maintain health professionals; plan programmatic activity; and in providing seamless, coordinated care.

Stand with NIHB today in advocating for the IHS Advanced Appropriation bills (H.R. 3229 and S.1570) which would shield IHS patients like your grandparents, children and loved ones from unacceptable threats like late budgeting and government shutdowns. The political environment of budget uncertainty and late funding means Indian Country needs to take action TODAY.



HOST A SITE VISIT

- Invite the Member of Congress or their staff to your facility or Tribe
- First-hand experience will help them learn about innovating things you are doing, but also challenges.
 - SDPI, great opportunity to showcase innovative work
- Have them speak with health directors, administrators, patients, employees
- If they don't respond – **KEEP TRYING**



BE A GRASSROOTS GURU



- Engaging other community members is really the key to effective advocacy. There is power in **NUMBERS**.
- Go to community events / fairs/ pow wows, school events, sporting events, and talk about these issues
- Have people fill out postcards, record a testimonial on your phone, write down their experience
- Pass out information with issues on how folks can help
- Take people's pictures holding a sign



NIHB CAN HELP!

NIHB is here to help Tribes tell that story.

We can help with:

- Congressional Testimony
- Regulation Comments
- Site Visit tips
- Visiting Congress on your behalf
- Arranging Hill Visits
- Sample Letter / Resolutions



Other services:

- Washington Report
- Health Reporter
- Medicare, Medicaid Policy Committee (MMPC)
- Appropriations & Policy Analysis
- Public Health Digest