



Town Hall Tips & Sample Questions

Thank you for taking Action for Peace by attending a congressional town hall meeting! Asking a question directly to your Representative or Senator is a powerful way to help frame the debate, impact their decision-making, and provide them an opportunity to take a vocal stance on an important issue.

Here are a few tips for when you arrive

- Arrive 30 mins early
- Get a good seat in the front so that you can hold up a sign
- Make sure your camera, phone, or recorder is ready
- Most town hall meetings will start with the member of Congress giving a speech and then opening the floor for questions. Don't hesitate to raise your hand quickly and confidently, or head straight to the microphone, to be sure you get an opportunity to ask your question. **If you can, have someone record video of the Rep. responding to your question — it's very useful to have should they say something newsworthy, and often good for social media.**
- **When it is your turn to ask your question:**
 - Introduce yourself and where you are from
 - Ask a concise question, that even people who don't know much about the issue can understand.
 - Have a few questions prepared in case someone before you has asked the question already.
 - **After a town hall members of Congress may have time to meet people individually and shake their hands. If so, you can take the opportunity to ask a question that wasn't asked, ask a more detailed or follow-up question.**

Sample Questions

1) If the President chose to use a nuclear weapon for a *pre-emptive* strike, do you agree it would be an act of war, and should therefore require congressional approval in advance? If so, will you commit to support legislation that would require congressional approval for the president to order a nuclear first strike?

2) U.S. military support for the Saudi-led intervention in Yemen has been fueling the worst humanitarian crisis in the world, making the U.S. complicit in war crimes, and fueling extremism in Yemen. Do you support ending U.S. military support for the intervention, and if so, how do you plan to advance that goal?

3) The 2001 authorization for the use of military force (AUMF) has functioned as a blank check for the president to wage endless war. Do you support repealing the 2001 AUMF? Are there other steps you support to ensure Congress rather than the president decides when we go to war?

4) The Korean War ended with the signing of an armistice rather than a peace treaty, so the war never formally ended. North Korea has repeatedly voiced its desire for security guarantees in exchange for concrete steps towards denuclearization. The South Korean government has voiced its desire to sign a declaration to formally end the war before the end of the 2018. Do you support the U.S. signing a declaration with North Korea, South Korea, and China to formally end the Korean War as a first step towards meeting the North's desire for security guarantees? If not, what steps would you support to meet North Korea's desire for security guarantees?

5) While the Trump administration's approach to negotiations with North Korea has been somewhat erratic, it has generally stuck to its demand that North Korea take significant steps towards denuclearization *prior* to receiving any sanctions relief or to the U.S. signing a declaration to formally end the Korean War. Do you support a more staged approach to negotiations that might offer partial sanctions relief, for example, in exchange for reciprocal steps from North Korea?

6) Since the start of negotiations, North Korea stopped testing ballistic missiles and nuclear bombs, released American prisoners, and facilitated the return of U.S. service member remains. Are there any confidence building measures you think the U.S. should consider taking to reciprocate these shows of good faith?