Legislator Town Halls: Information for Advocates

Town halls are public meetings lawmakers host in their districts to hear from constituents and share updates on their work.

Participating in a town hall is a great way to advocate for kids. It allows you to build a relationship with your legislator, learn about their priorities, and raise issues that are important to you and to kids and families.

Frequently asked questions about town hall meetings:

1. **What is the format of a town hall?**

   The format varies. It’s up to the legislator or legislators hosting the event. Most begin with a short presentation and updates from the lawmakers, and then provide time for questions and dialogue. Town halls can be held in person, or via telephone. Some in-person town halls are very informal and allow attendees to raise their hand and ask questions. Others ask that participants write questions down on a notecard, and the lawmakers decide which questions to answer.

2. **Do all legislators hold town halls?**

   No. It’s completely up to the individual legislator. Most do, but not all. Sometimes state legislators from the same district told town halls together.

3. **Do I have to be a registered voter to attend a town hall?**

   No. Anyone can attend a town hall event, regardless of whether you are eligible to vote or registered to vote, and regardless of immigration status.

4. **How do I find out about town hall meetings?**

   There is no one location that lists all the town hall meetings. To find out if your legislator will hold a town hall, contact their office or visit their website.

*For more information contact Emijah Smith, Community Engagement Manager at Emijah@childrensalliance.org or (206) 324-0340 x25*