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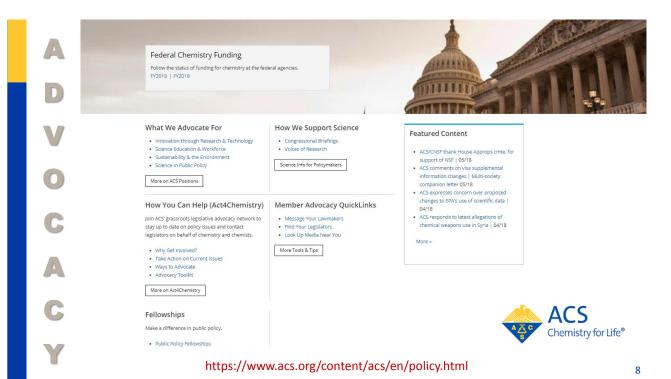
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#### Become a Science Advocate: How to Engage Your Elected Officials



Allison A. Campbell Associate Laboratory Director for Earth and Biological Sciences, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Immediate-Past President, American Chemical Society



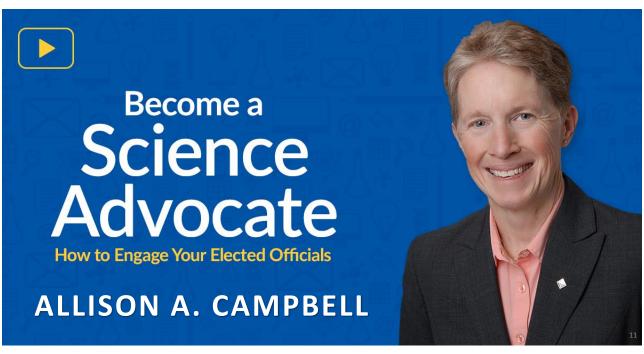
Karen Garcia Senior Legislative Associate, External Affairs & Communications, American Chemical Society



Laura Pence Professor of Chemistry, University of Hartford and Member, American Chemical Society Board of Directors

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Overview of Advocacy

Review



Planning Your Meeting

Practice Example





# Have you communicated with an elected representative about a scientific issue? (Choose all that apply)

- Met in-person
- Phone conversation
- · Handwritten letter or email
- Social media interaction
- · None of the above

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#### **Congress is Not Inherently Science Savvy**





Two PhD STEM scientists currently in Congress



# There Are Many Issues Where Policy And Science Intersect





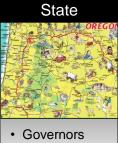
- Federal funding of research
- Environmental and climate policy
- STEM education
- Taxation of graduate student stipends
- Immigration
- Peer review

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# **Engagement Can Happen At All Levels Of Government**



- Congress
- Agencies
- OSTP



- 0010111010
- Assembles
- Agencies



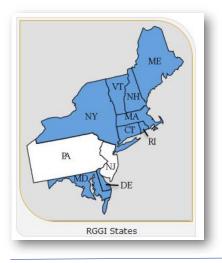


- Mayors
- School Boards
- City Councils



# Lots Of Policy Action At The State And Local Levels





- STEM education
- Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
- Renewable energy requirements



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# **Information And Tools To Help With Advocacy Efforts**









**Policy Statements** 



**Toolkit** 

https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/policy.html



# You Can Meet Your Federally Elected Officials in Several Places





Society for Science at User Research Facilities Capitol Hill Expo

- · Washington DC office
- District Offices
- Fund Raisers
- Town Halls
- Organized Events

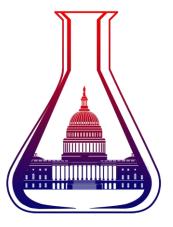




Professor of Chemistry, University of Hartford and ACS District 1 Director

# **Having A Successful Meeting**



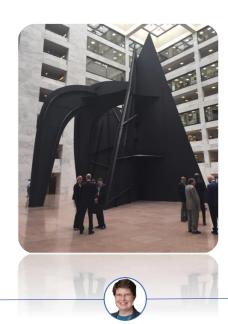




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# Why me?





#### **Scheduling A Meeting**





Step 1: Identify your Legislator/Official https://whoismyrepresentative.com/

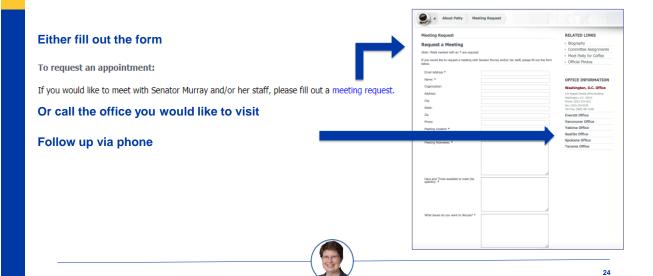
Step 2: Go to the official's website and look for "Contact Me"



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## **Scheduling A Meeting, Continued**







# If I want to set up a meeting to talk policy with my senator, which answer is the wisest option?

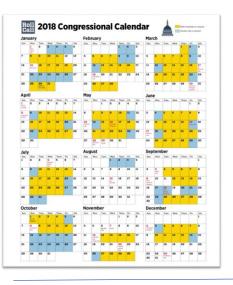
- If I can't talk to the senator in person, I am best to try again at another time
- If I'm offered a meeting with a staff member instead of the senator, I should take it and understand that it's second best, but that's what I've got
- If I'm offered a meeting with a staff member instead of the senator, I should take it and be excited to talk to someone who will know more about my issue.
- None of the above

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# Representative Chief of Staff Press Secretary Legislative Director Legislative Adds Office Staff Assistants INTERNS Assistants

#### **Preparing For A Meeting**





- Step 3: Identify who will be attending the meeting
- **Step 4:** Prepare your talking points, ask, meeting logistics with your group
- Step 5: Practice



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#### **Know Your "Ask"**





# Staffers <u>expect</u> an ask

#### An "ask" can take various forms:

- Support for/opposition to legislation, policy
- Funding, appropriations requests
- Other actions: e.g., join the chemistry caucus

#### The Basics: That Day



- Dress appropriately (business professional is encouraged)
- Bring business cards
- Be on time and be flexible
- Be prepared!



### **Be Flexible**





#### Delays happen

- floor votes
- hearings
- surprises & crises du jour

#### Productive meetings can happen anywhere

- conference rooms
- reception areas
- hallways
- cafeterias



## **Practice Talking Points / Ask**



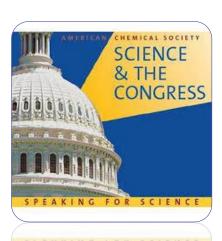


- Start with with the "why" not the "what"
- Establish context: Words have many meanings
- Avoid jargon
- · Connect chemistry to everyday life
- You aren't speaking to scientists



## **Ways To Follow Up**





- Send a thank you email to Member/staffers
- Send any materials requested by staffers
- Send other materials that might be helpful
- Visit the district office
- Invite member/staff to ACS-sponsored events





There is a current policy issue in the Senate that you are very concerned about. Which meeting will allow you to be most effective?

- Senator Mitch McConnell, the Majority Leader
- A senator who seems to be saying a lot in the news on this topic
- One or both of the senators from your own state
- All of the above

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## **Practice Meeting**





Sen. Murray (D-WA)

Let's walk through a meeting with Senator Patty Murray



#### **Do Your Homework**





- The Ask: increased funding for DOE and NSF
- Homework
  - DOE Office of Science User facility data (users #s, Funding)
  - NSF funding- # and specific institutions that get NSF funding, specific projects



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## **Model Meeting with Sen. Murray**



- Introductions
  - Establish yourself as a constituent; your connection to state or district and affiliation
- Thanks:
  - For your continued support of our veterans



#### Model Meeting with Sen. Murray



#### Ask:

 Increase funding for DOE's Office of Science and for the National Science Foundation







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## **Model Meeting with Sen. Murray**





#### **DOE Office of Science** (SC)

Data: SC funds ~\$200M in WA;

 Stewards PNNL which employs over 4500 people and is home to 2 SC user scientific facilities

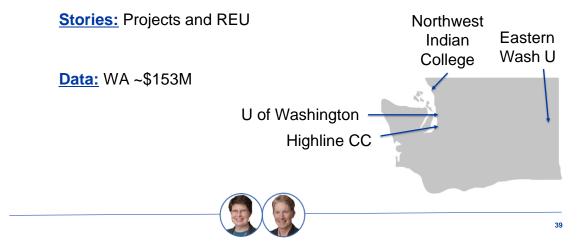
<u>Stories</u>: Importance of user facilities to undergraduate institutions



#### **Model Meeting with Sen. Murray**



#### **NSF**



## **Model Meeting with Sen. Murray**



## Wrap up

- Ask questions: How does sequestration impact the budget process?
- LISTEN
- Repeat ask
- Thank her for her time, Follow up



## **Putting It All Together**







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# Remember - Everyday Scientists Have A Voice





#### Helpful Resource: ACS Advocacy Toolkit



https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/policy/memberadvocacy/advocacy-tools.html





#### Resources

#### **Talking Points**

- Predictable and Sustained Federal Support for Scientific Research
- Chemistry Talking Points for Outreach and Engagement

#### **Background Information & Chemistry News**

- Our Analysis of the FY2018 Budget & Appropriations for Science
- Science in the Trump Administration
- ACS Chemical & Engineering News (C&EN)
- Toolkits on Sustainability and Federal Science Funding
- · Our Positions on Policy Issues

#### General

- Days Congress is in Session
- How a Bill Becomes a Law
- Federal Budget FAQs
- Federal Appropriations and Budget Process



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#### **Thank You!**











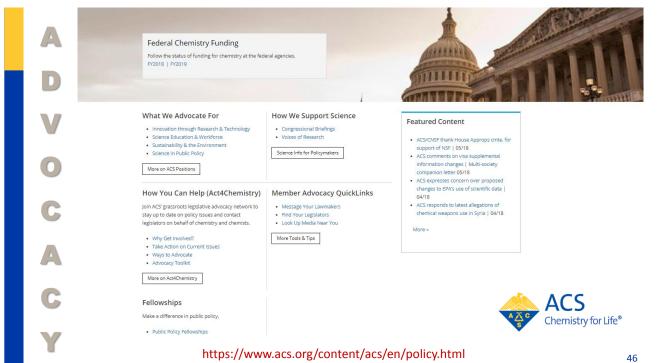
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