CAPITOL HILL DAY 2024

What to Know Before You Go

Thursday, March 12, 2024

NAHRO
building communities together

Agenda & Speakers

Scheduling Overview, Advocacy Associates

James Simmons (jsimmons@advocacyassociates.com)

Hill Day Preparation Resources, NAHRO

Jenna Hampton (jhampton@nahro.org)

Gabriel Smith (gsmith@nahro.org)

Add questions to the Q&A box

NAHRO
building communities together

Registering for Hill Day

This year, we are asking Washington Conference attendees to **OPT IN** for Captiol Hill Day meetings.

- **Step 1** – Register for the **Washington Conference**
- **Step 2** – Check your confirmation email for a link **to register for Hill Day**
- **Step 3** – Watch for an email with more information on your meeting schedule

App Schedules and Logistics Overview

From: Advocacy Day <advocacyday@advocacyassociates.com>
To: Margaret Lavende
Subject: Schedule for Okapi Hill Day

Hello Margaret Lavender,

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Thank you,
Advocacy Associates

Downloading the App

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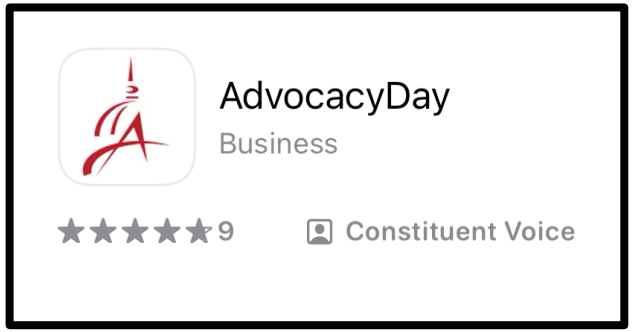

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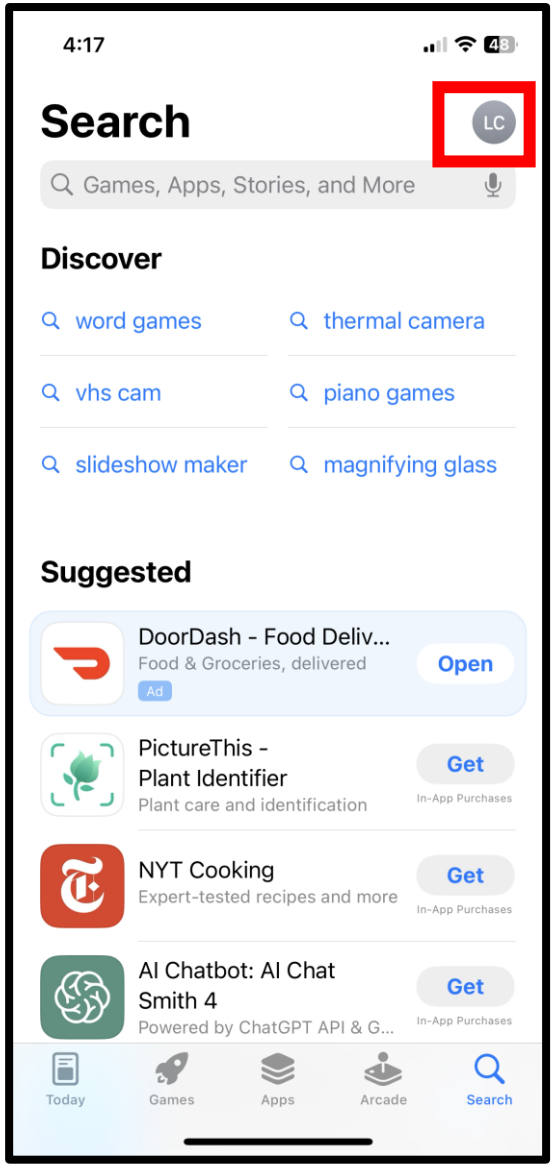

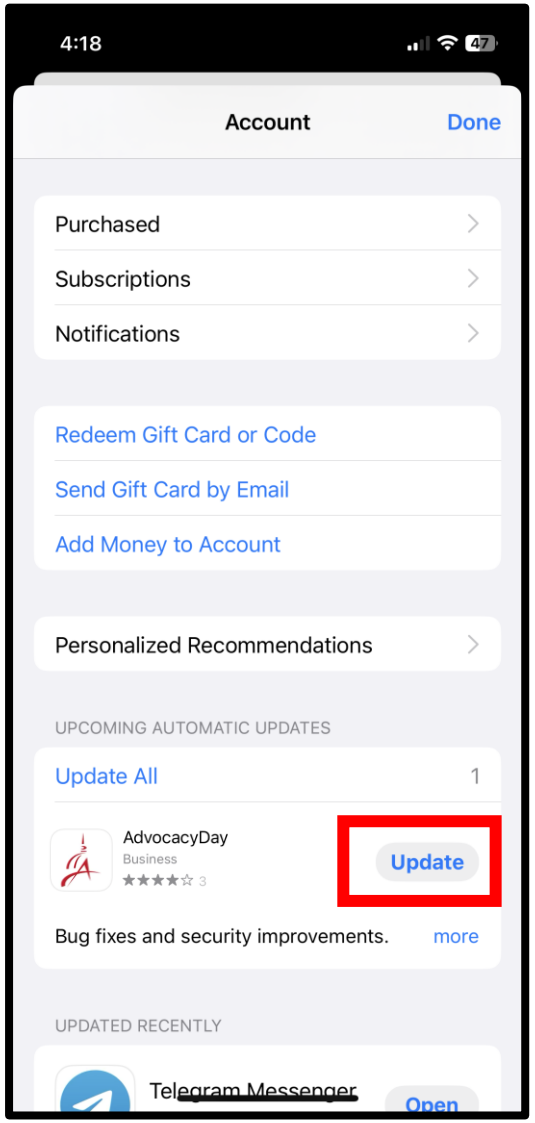

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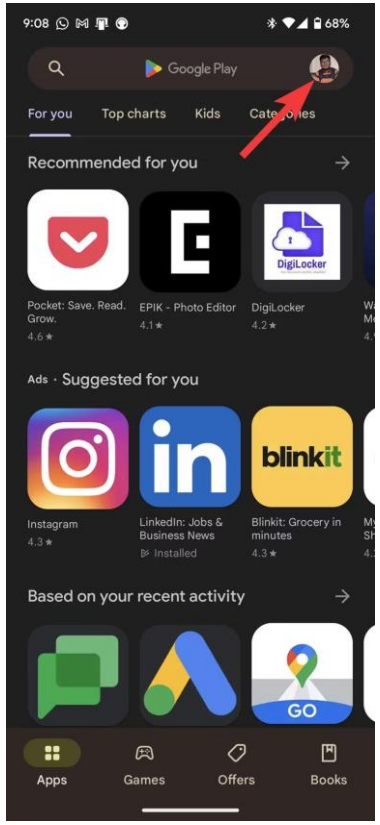
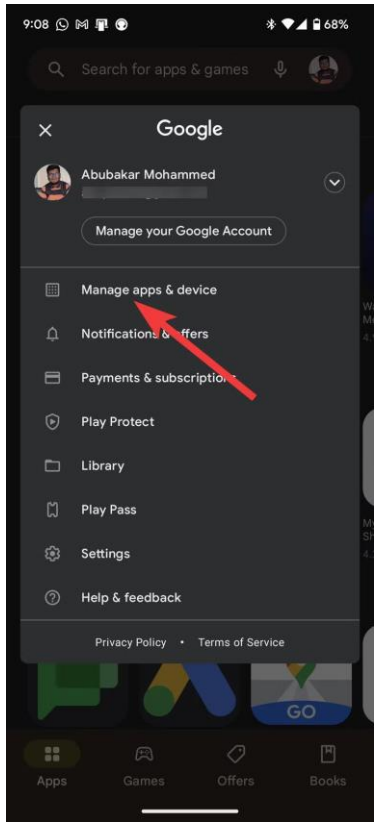
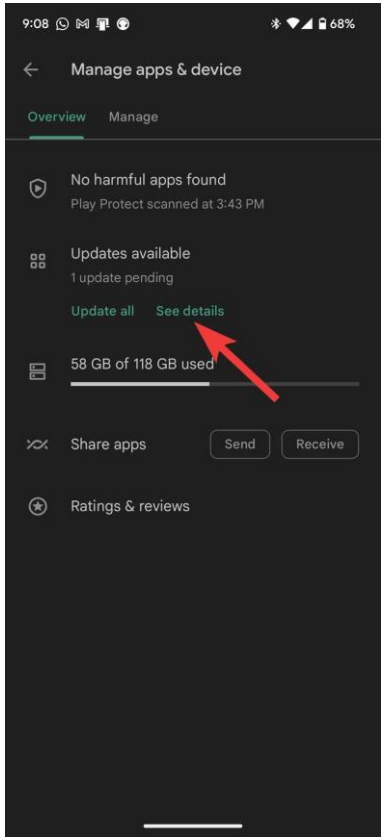
- For iPhone:
  - Go to your App Store
  - Tap your **profile icon** in upper right
  - Scroll down to find the AdvocacyDay app
  - If **“Update”** appears next to the app icon, tap on it
  - If “Open” appears next it, no action is needed, you have the most up to date version



Step 1

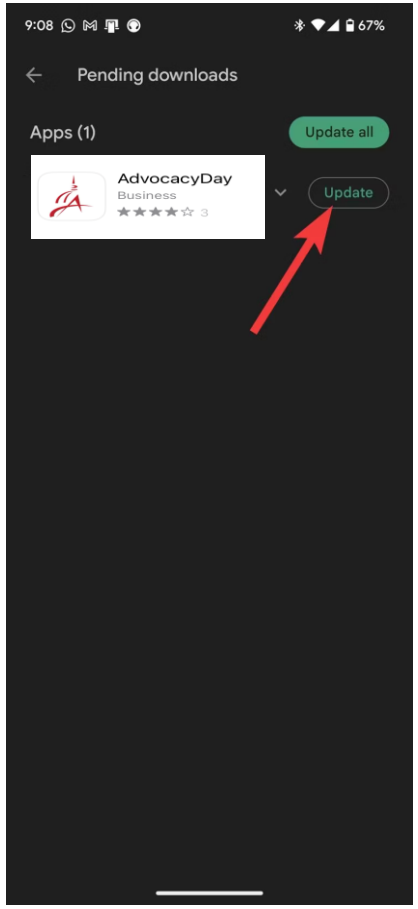
Step 2





Step 3

Step 4



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- For Android:
  - Go to your Google Play Store app
  1. Tap your **profile icon** in upper right
  2. Tap "**Manage apps and device**"
  3. If there are pending updates, tap to view
  4. Tap **"Update"** if there is an update badge beside the AdvocacyDay app
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Thank you,
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- If you do not have the most updated version, you will experience login issues

For alternative verification, delete your app and redownload it

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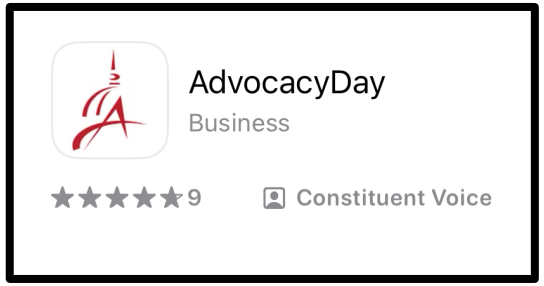
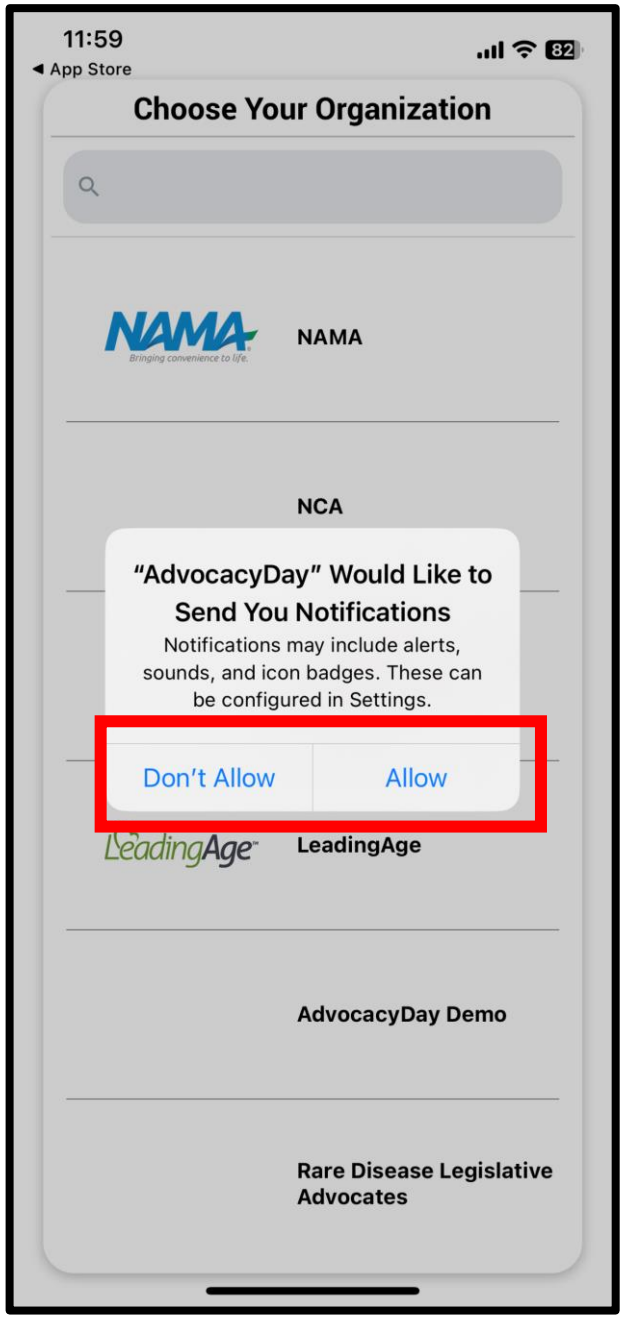
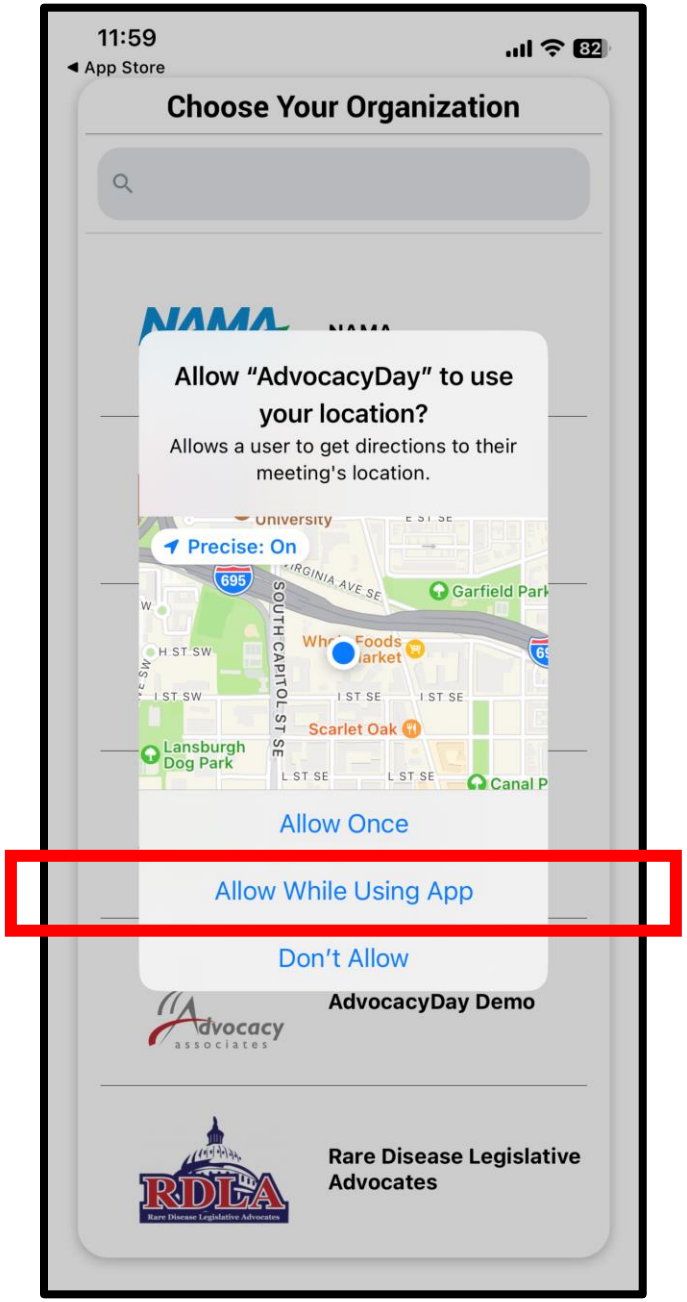


- **Contact us for any technical support**



When Opening the App

- Select **"Allow"** for notifications



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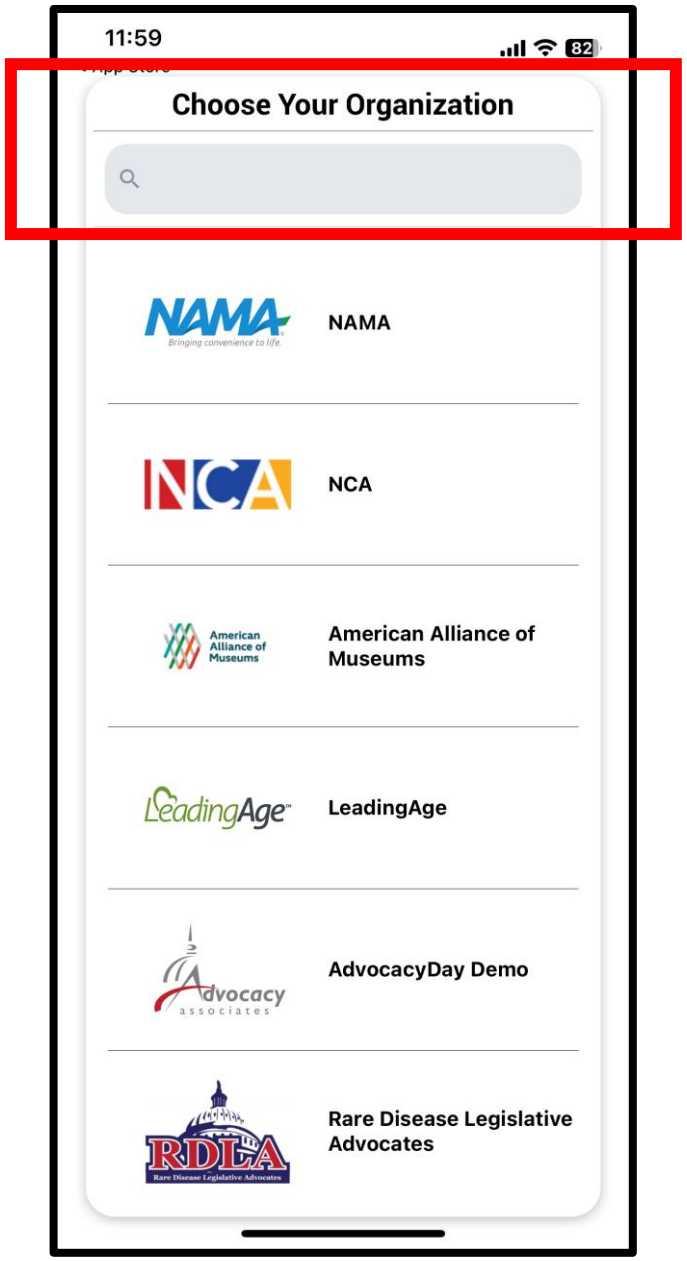

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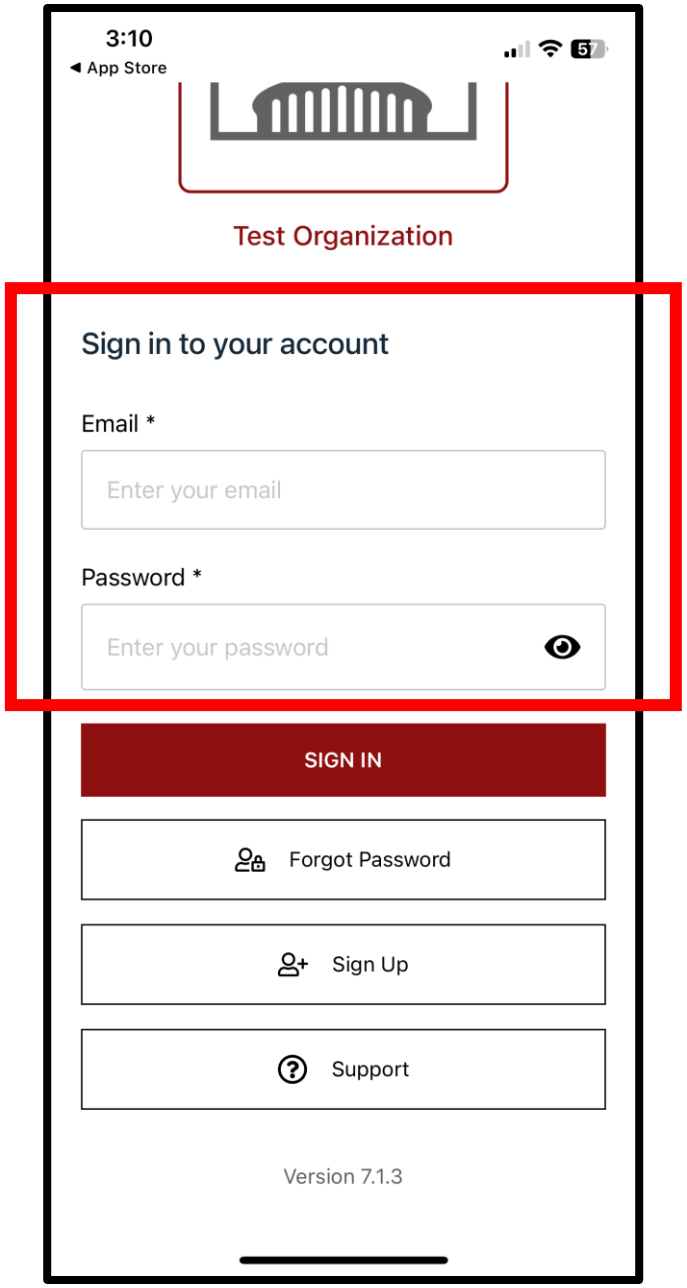
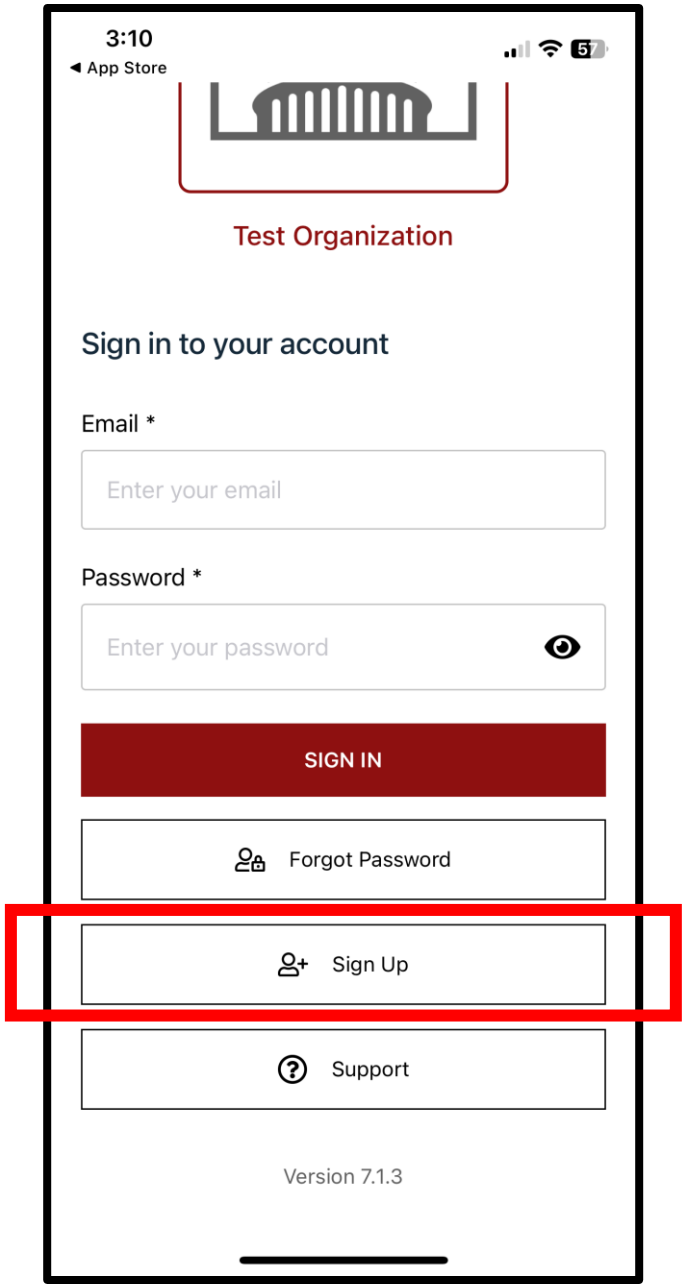


Advocacy associates

Logging In

- **EXISTING USERS** who participated in a previous event can login with their email and password



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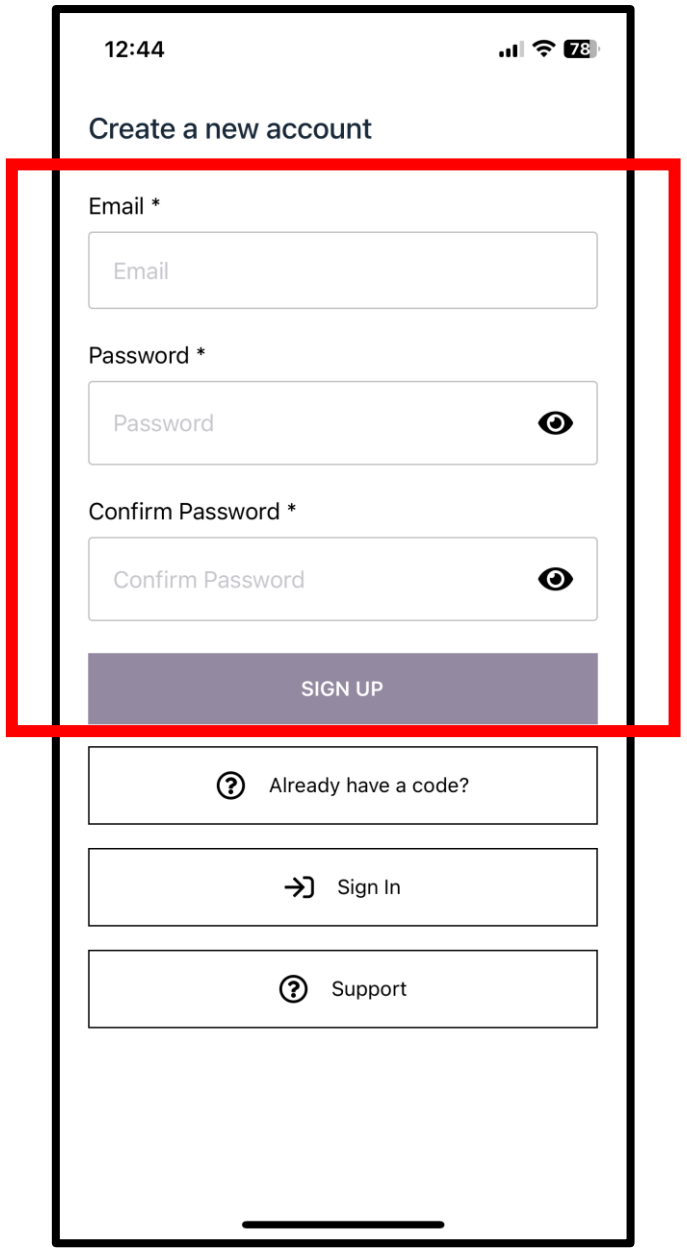

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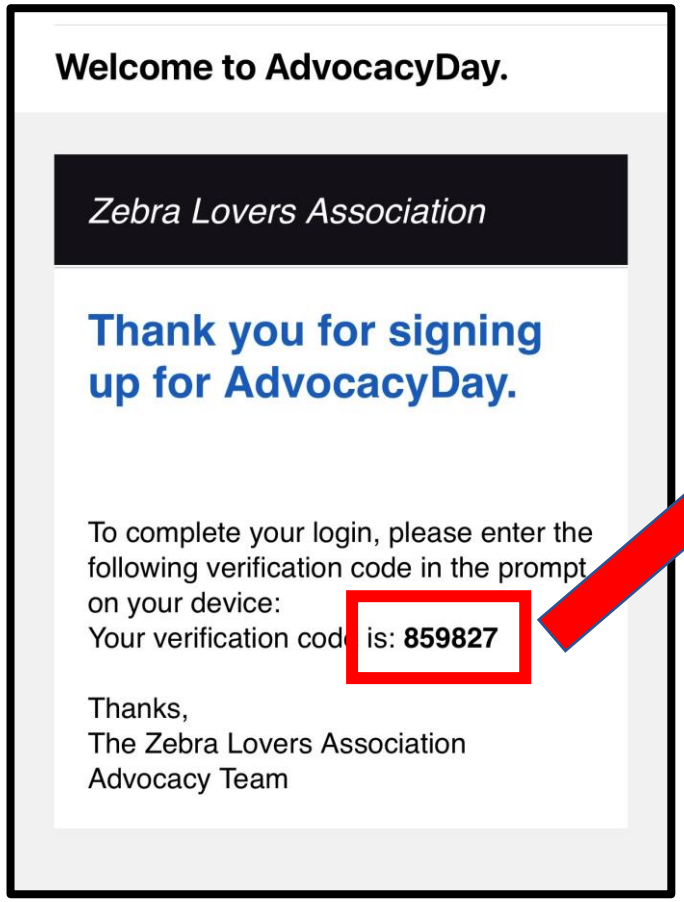

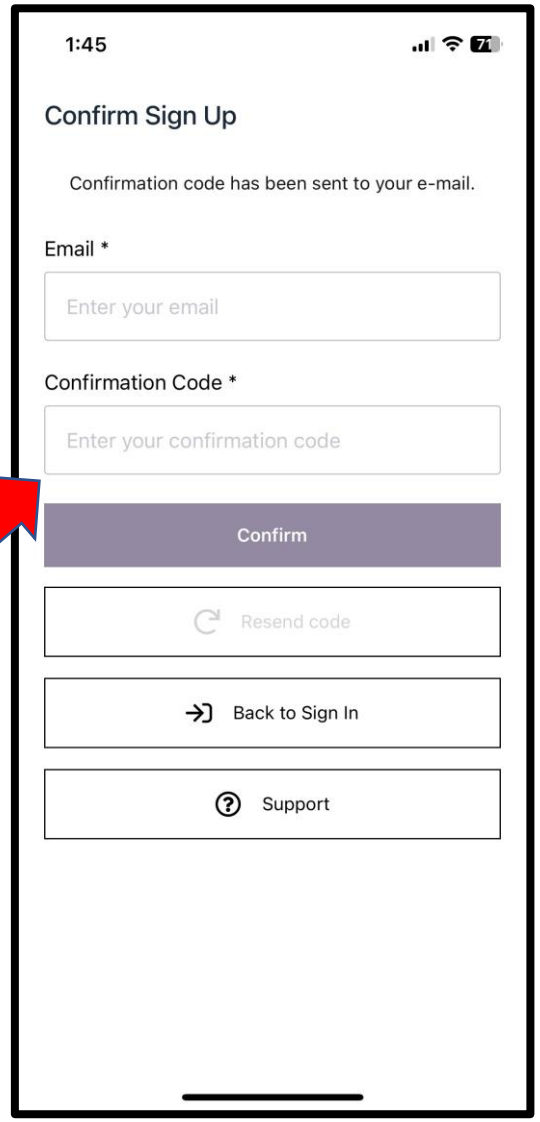

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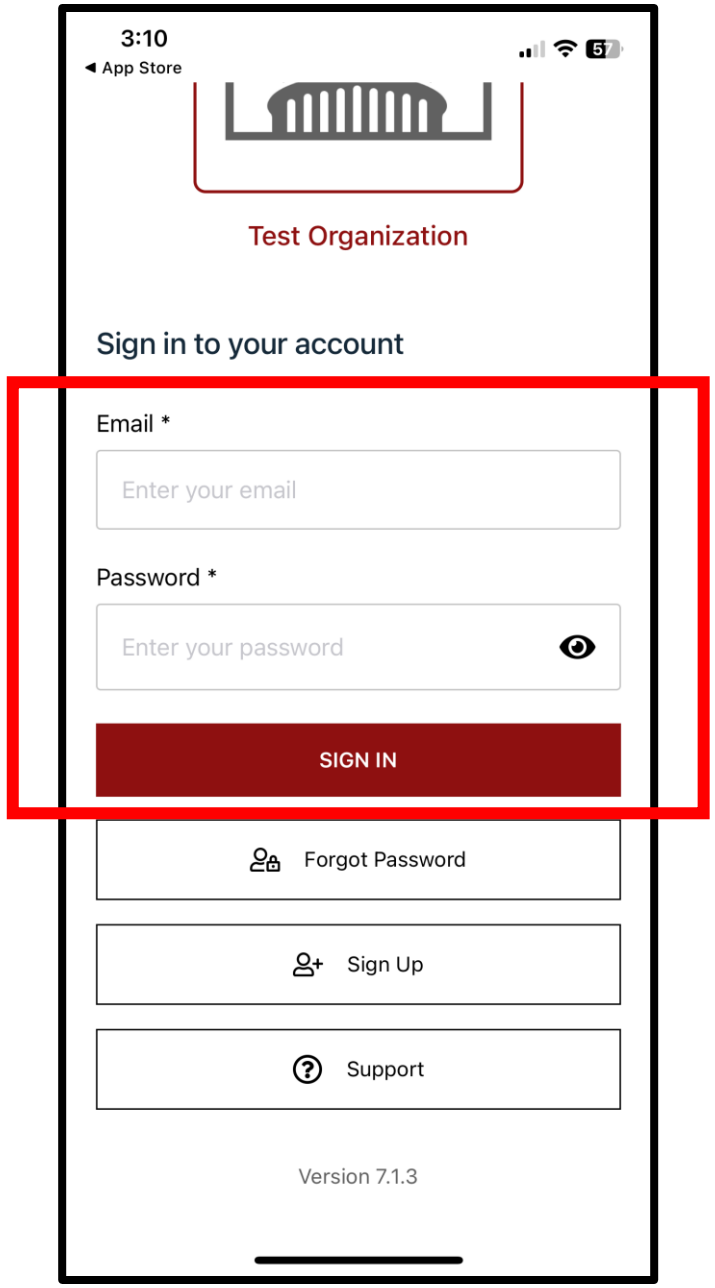

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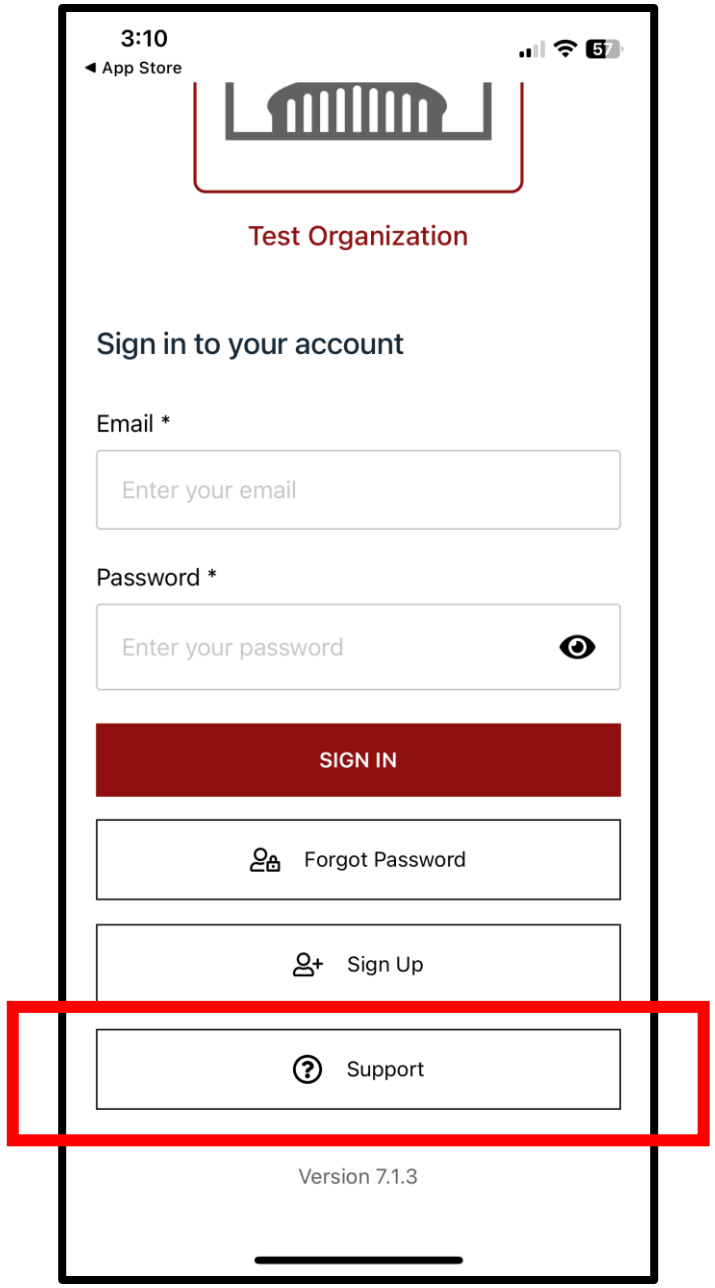

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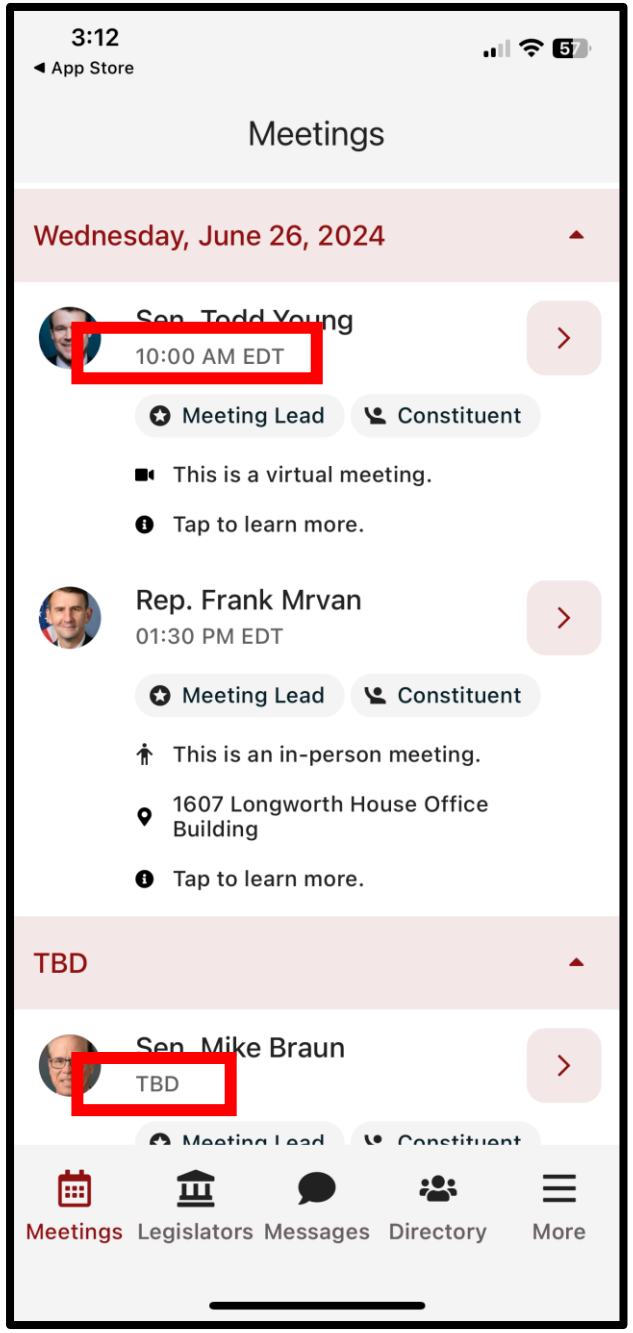
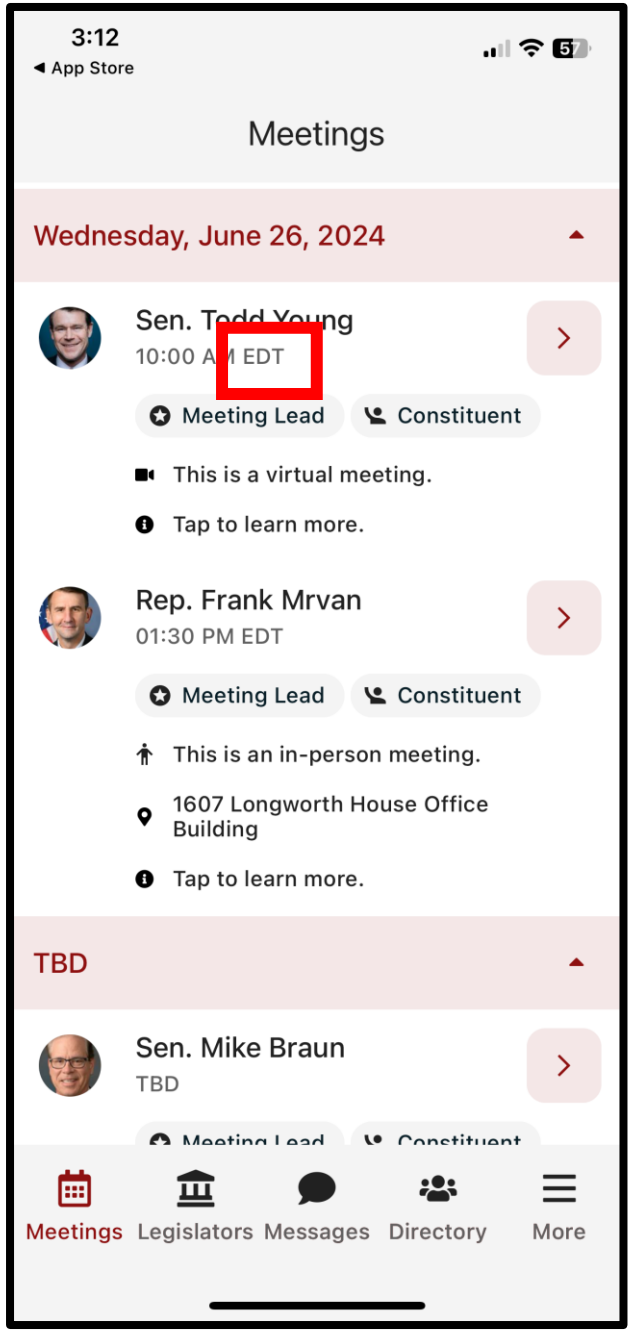


Main Schedule Page

- Confirmed meetings display with a time, pending meetings display as TBD



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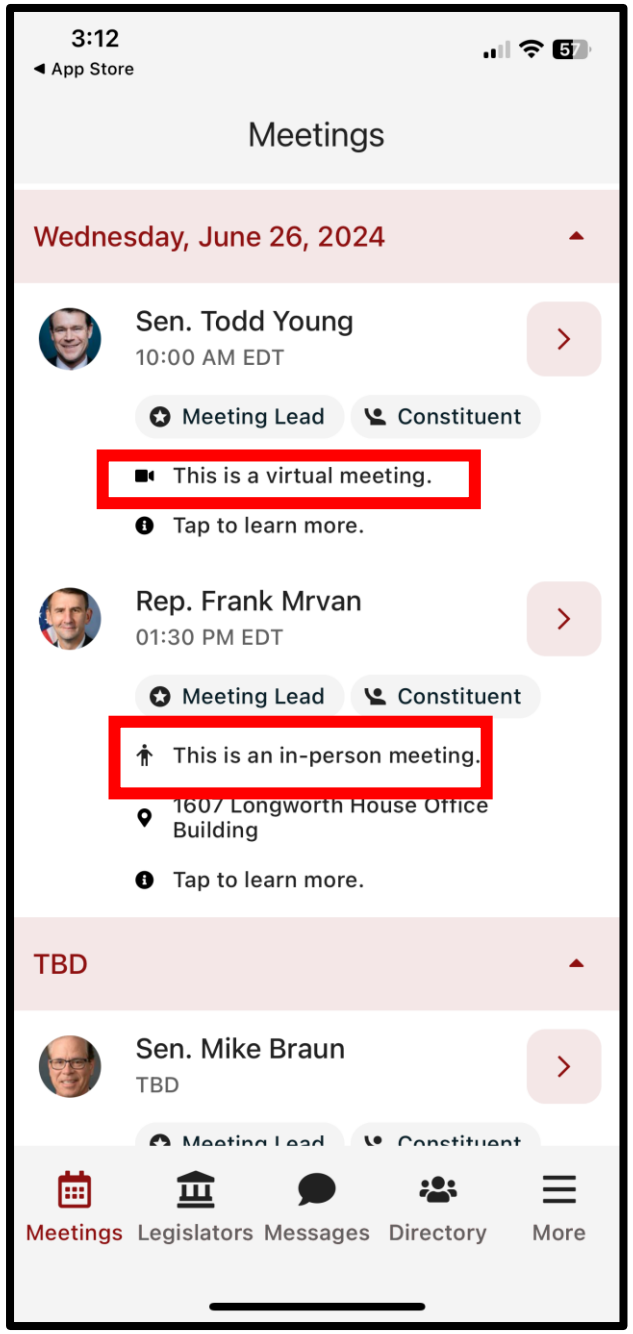
- Confirmed meetings display with a time, pending meetings display as TBD
- All times displayed in time zone you are located in



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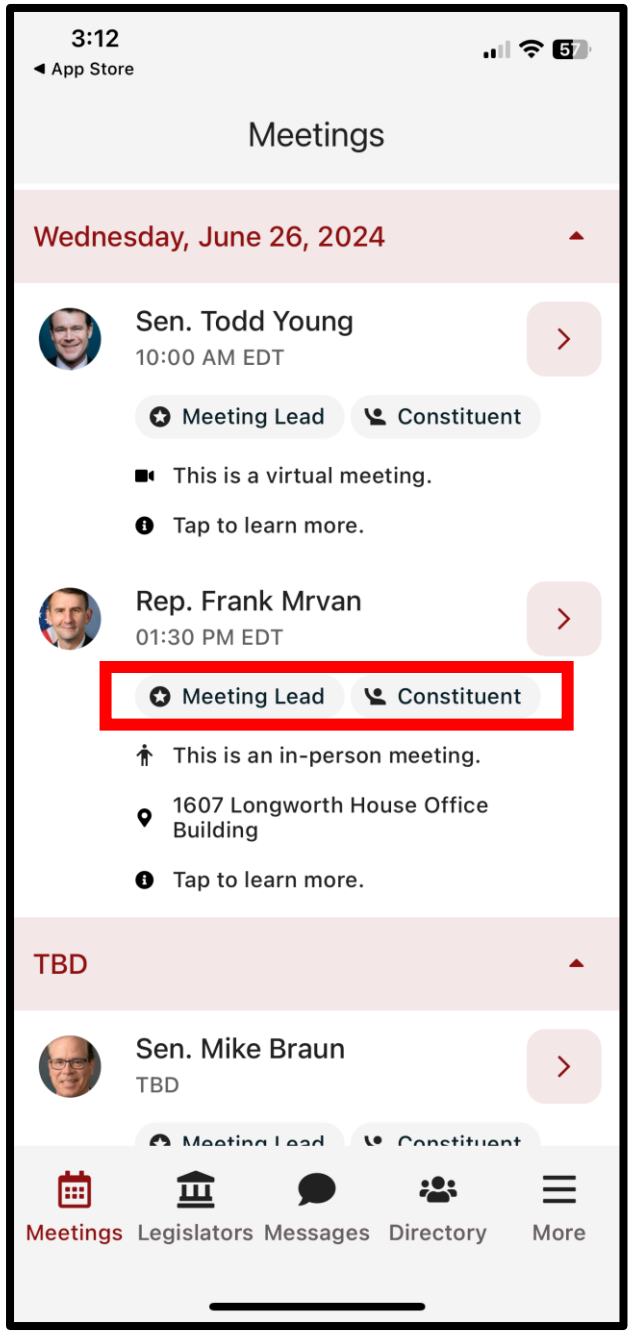
- All times displayed in time zone you are located in
- Indicates in person or virtual



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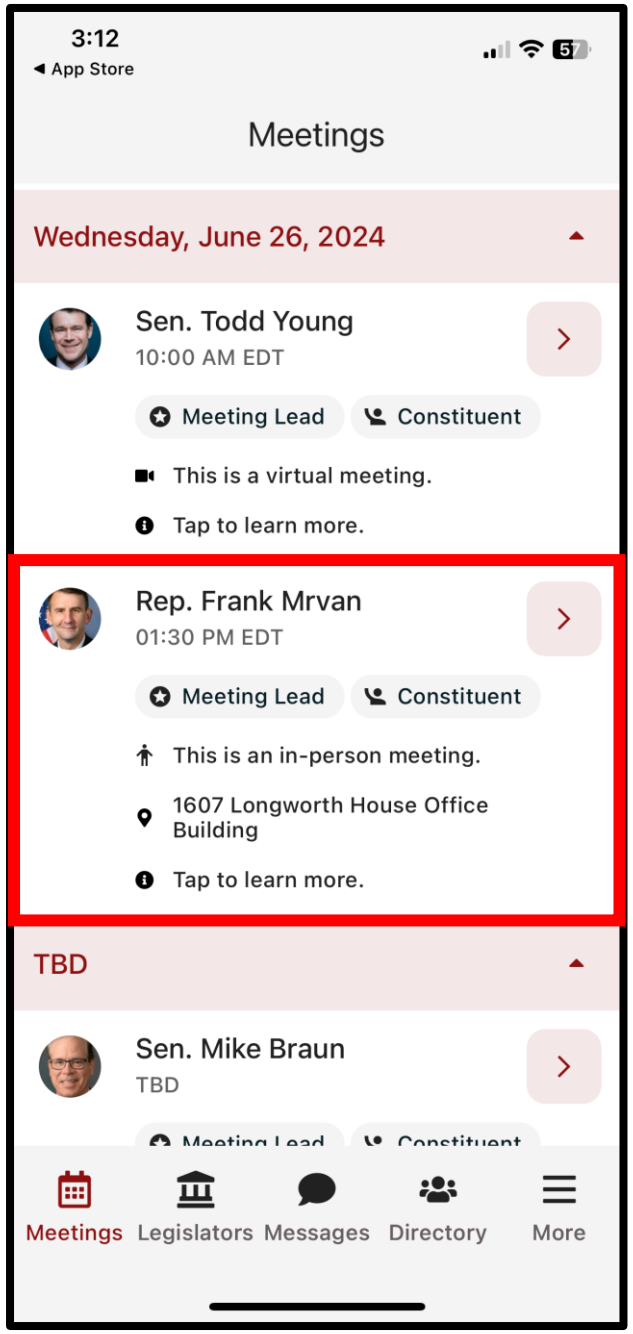
- Badges indicating if you are a Constituent and/or Meeting Lead for that meeting



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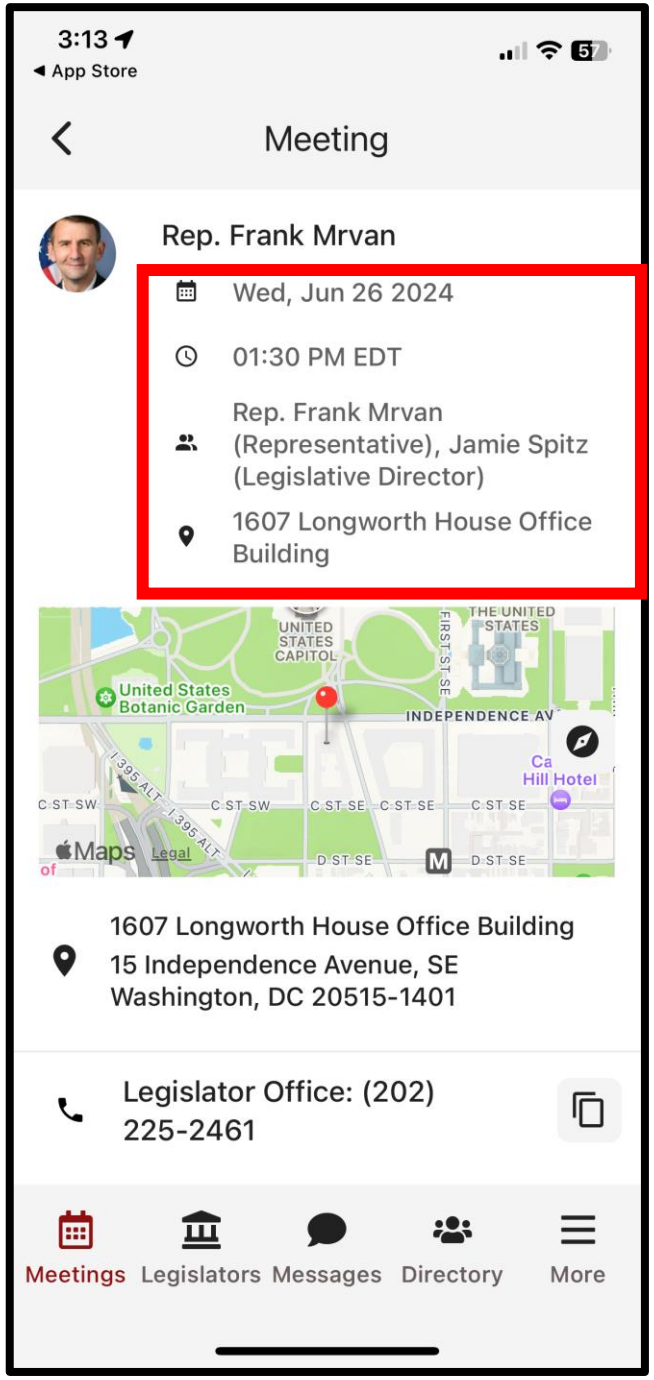
- Tap anywhere on the meeting to learn more



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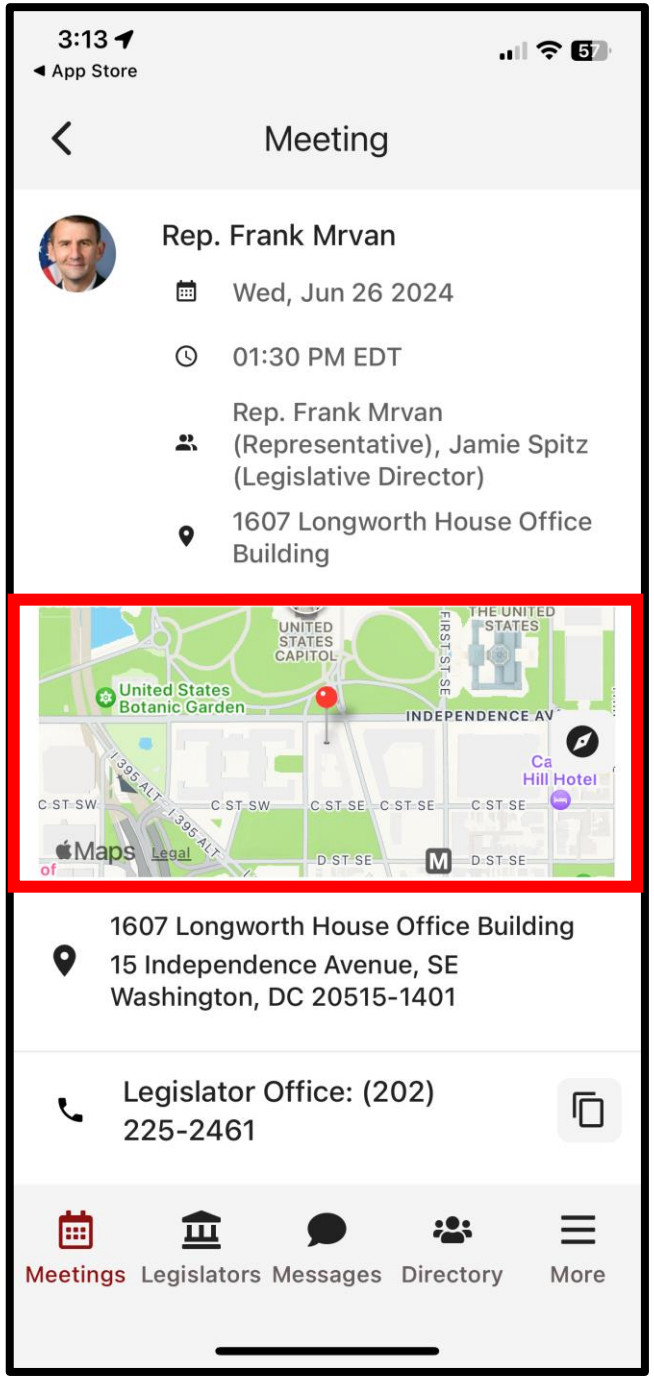
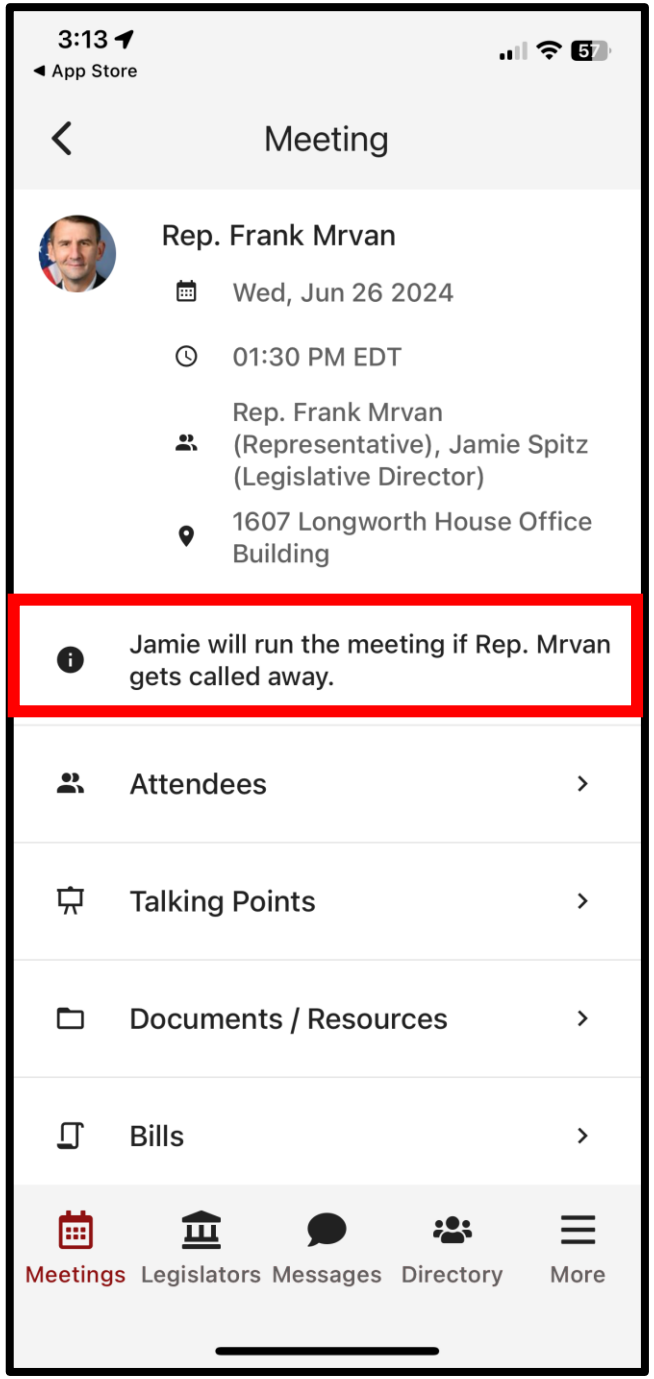


- Date/Time/Meeting With/Location
- Tap on the map to get walking directions to the building



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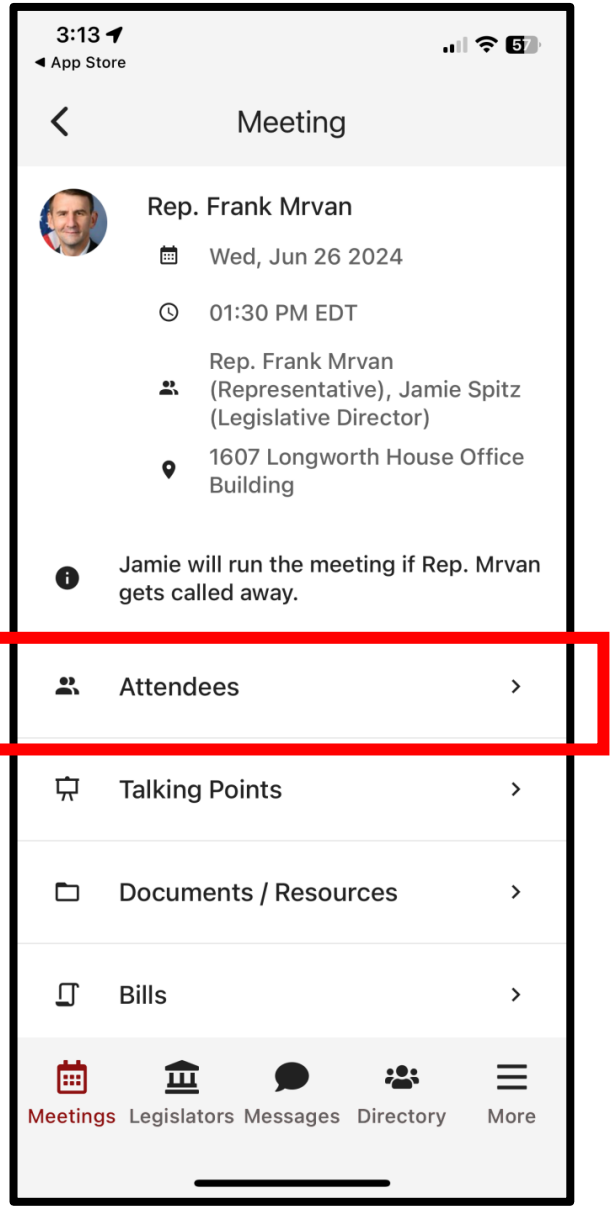

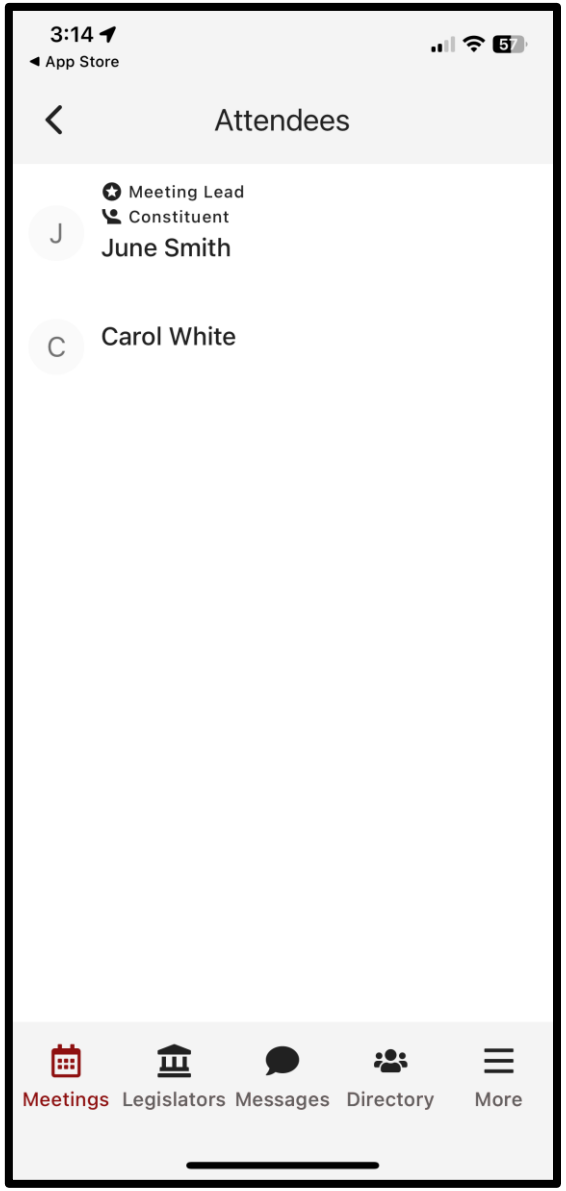

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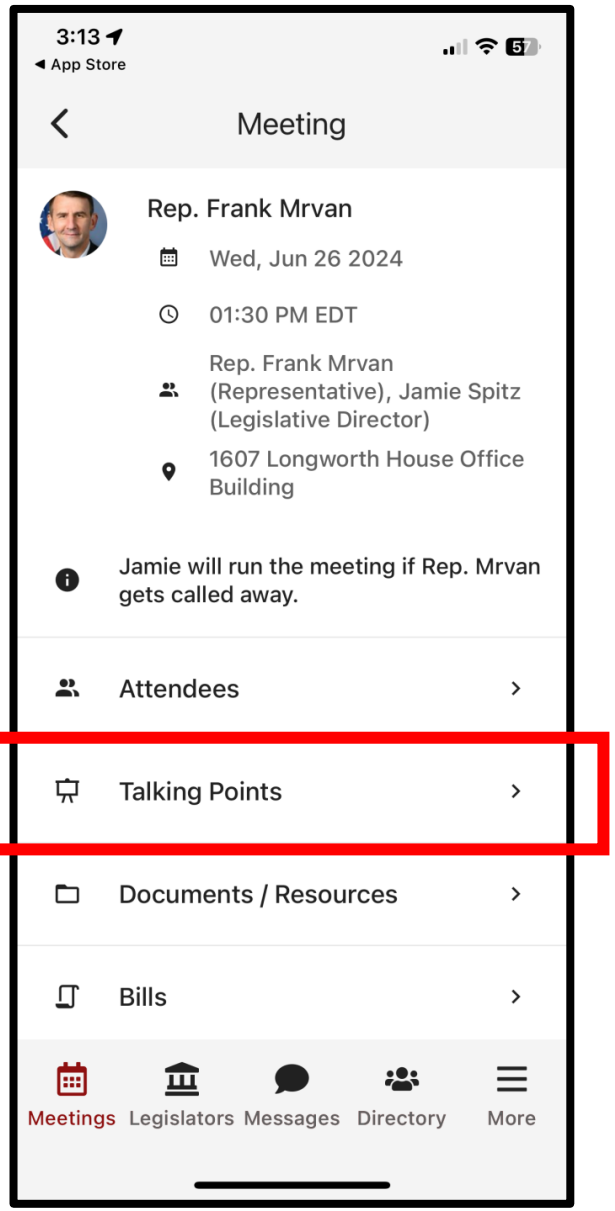
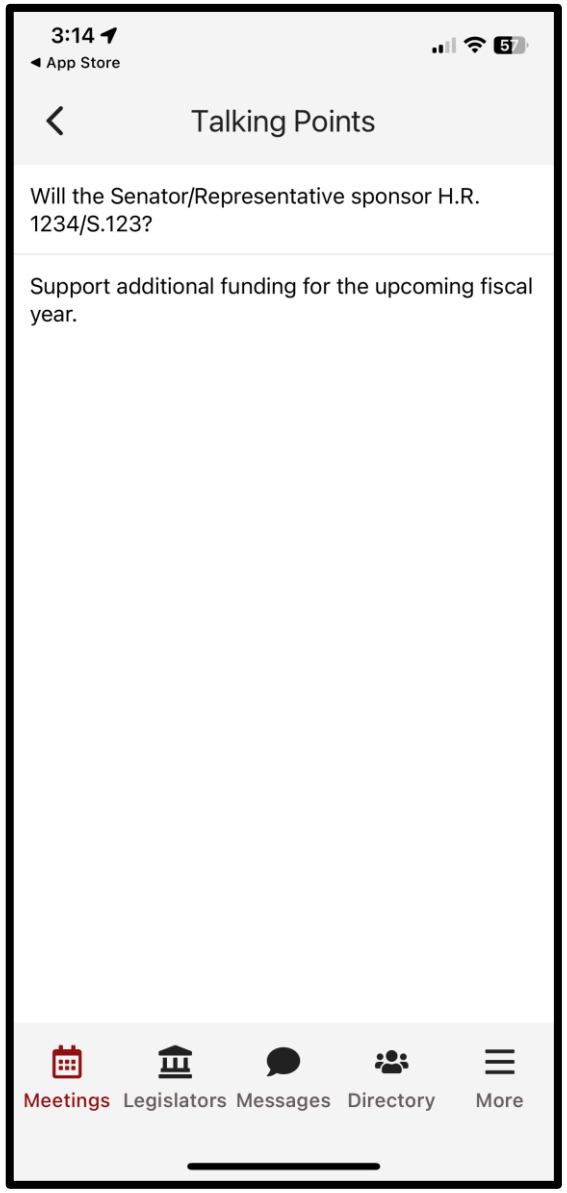
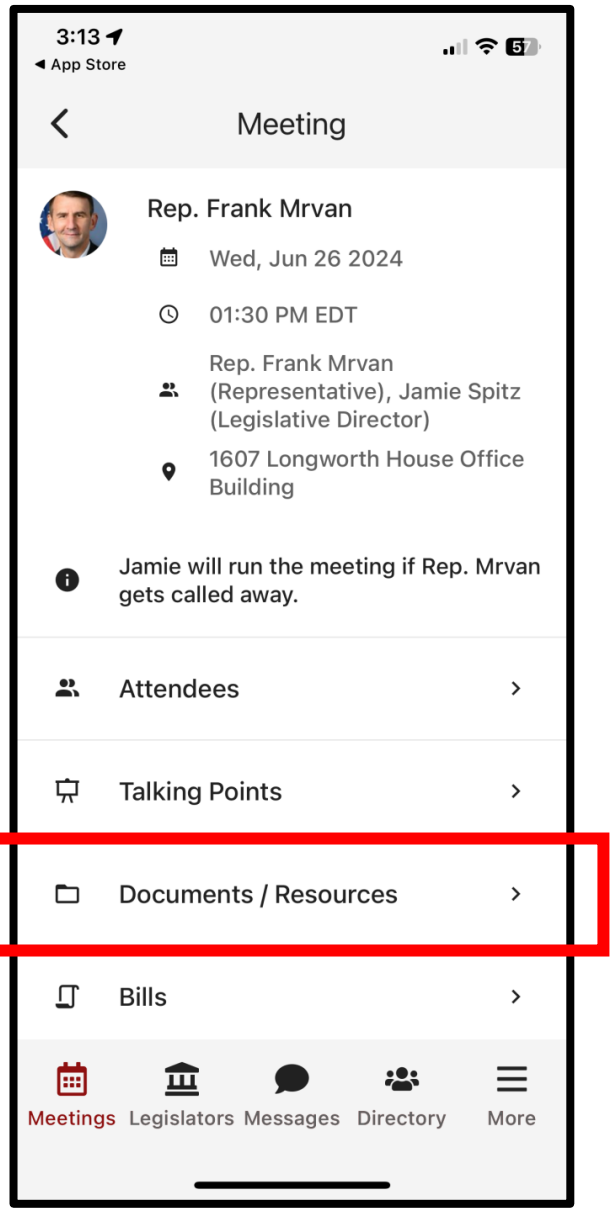
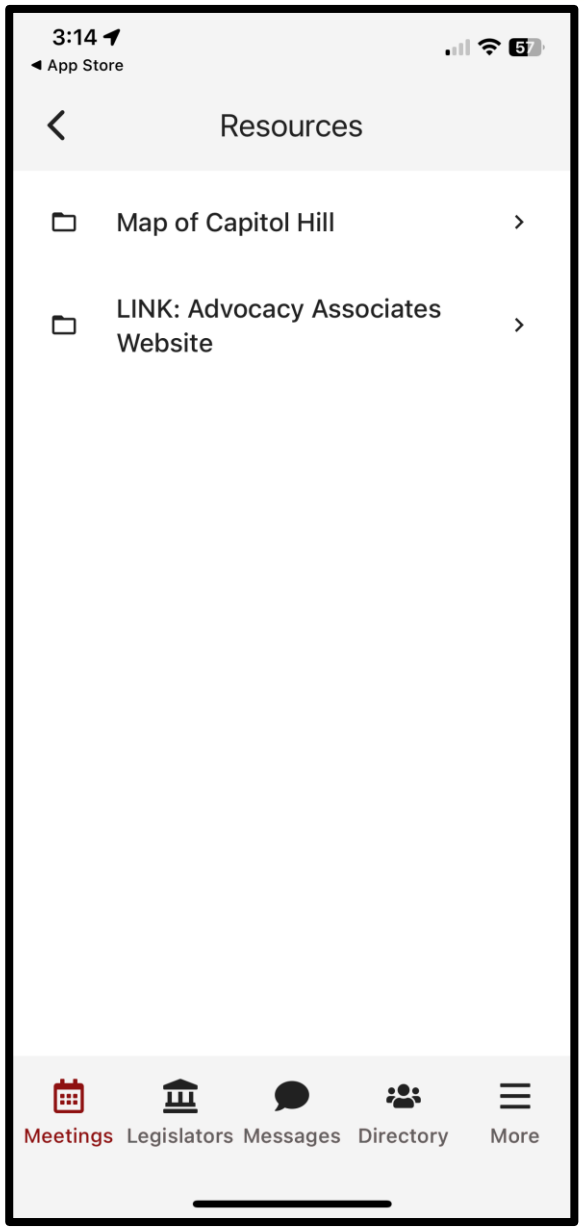
- Scroll down for any important information
- Attendees in the meeting



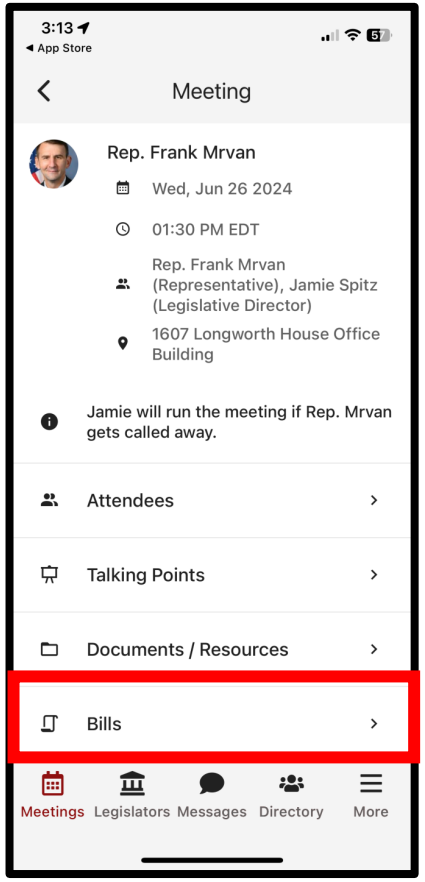


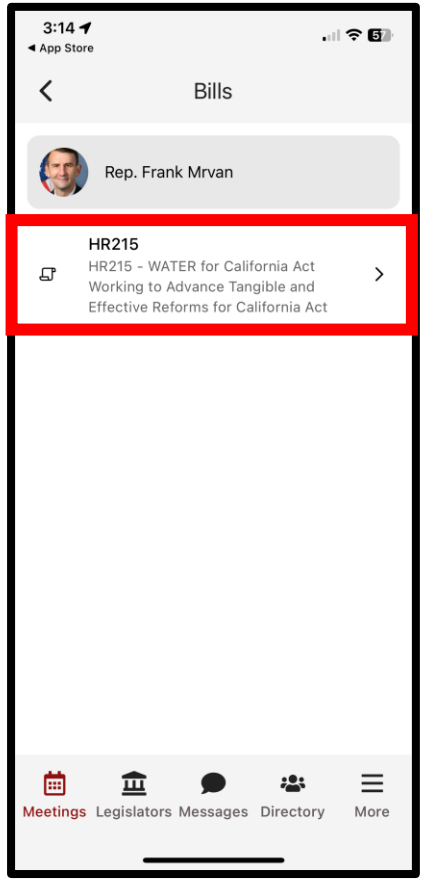
- Date/Time/Meeting With/Location
- Tap on the map to get walking directions to the building
- Scroll down for any important information
- Attendees in the meeting
- Talking points

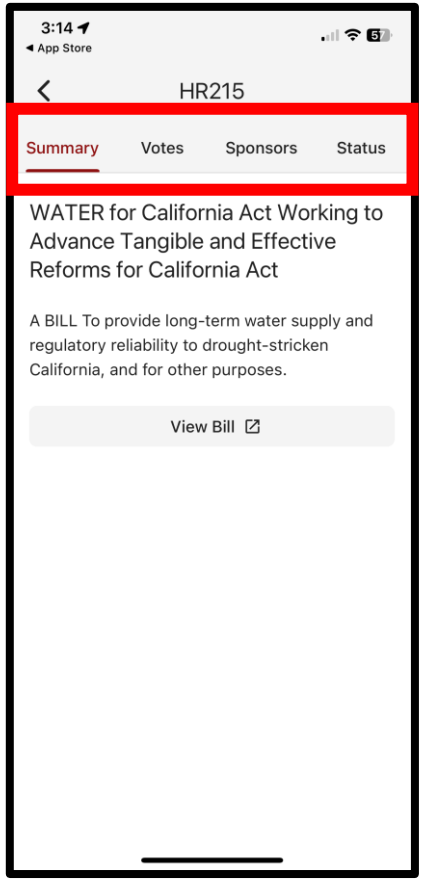




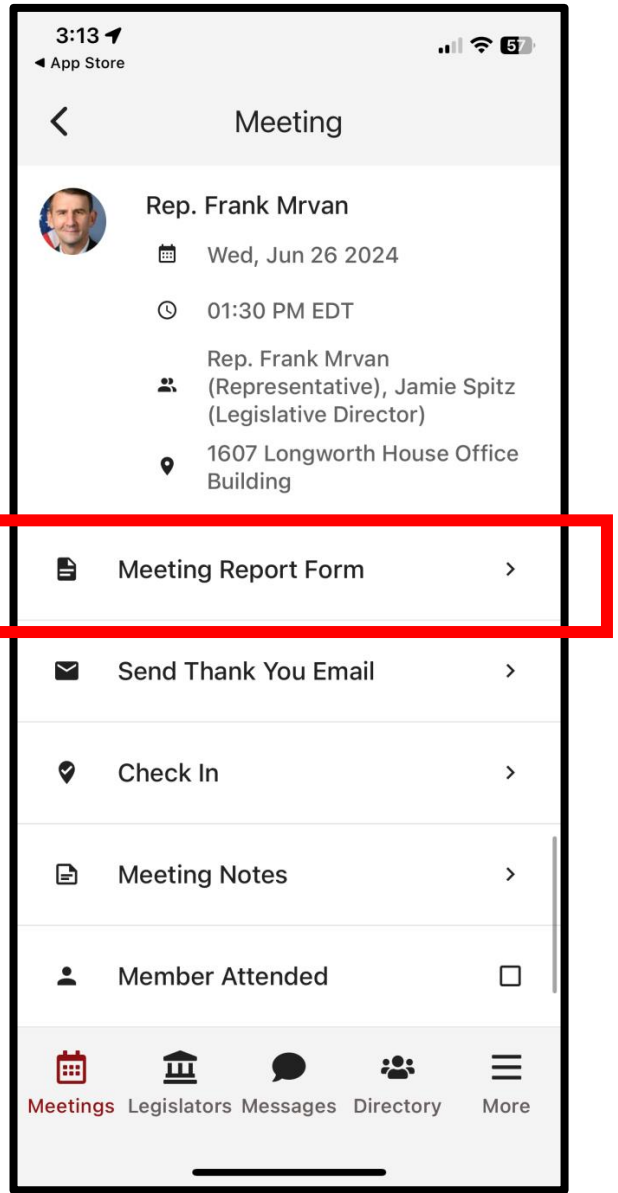
- Date/Time/Meeting With/Location
- Tap on the map to get walking directions to the building
- Scroll down for any important information
- Attendees in the meeting
- Talking points
- Documents and resources

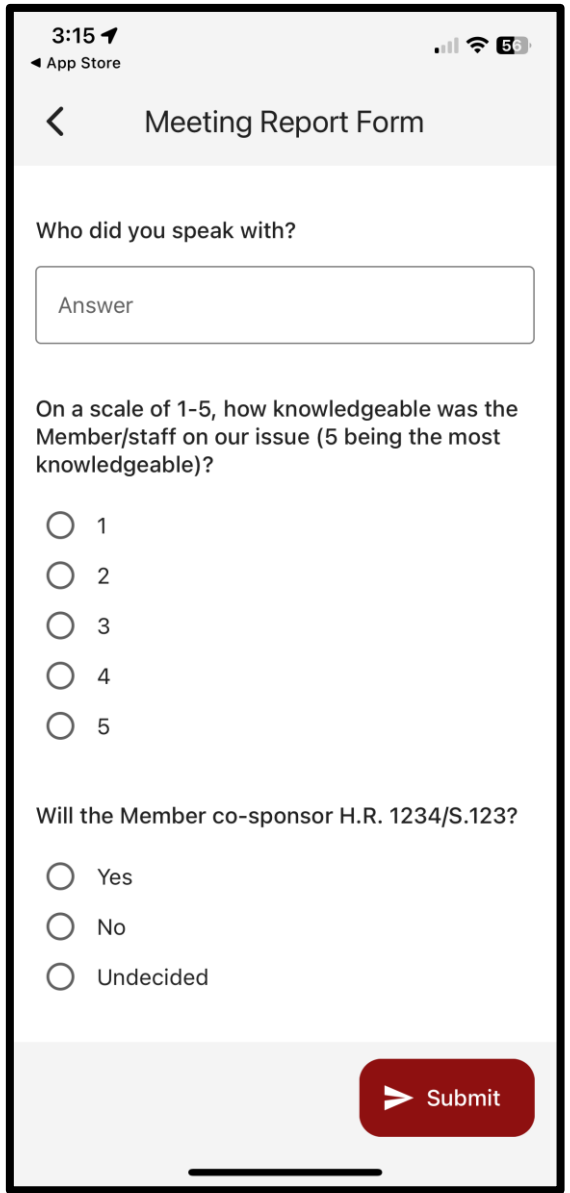






- Date/Time/Meeting With/Location
- Tap on the map to get walking directions to the building
- Scroll down for any important information
- Attendees in the meeting
- Talking points
- Documents and resources
- Bills





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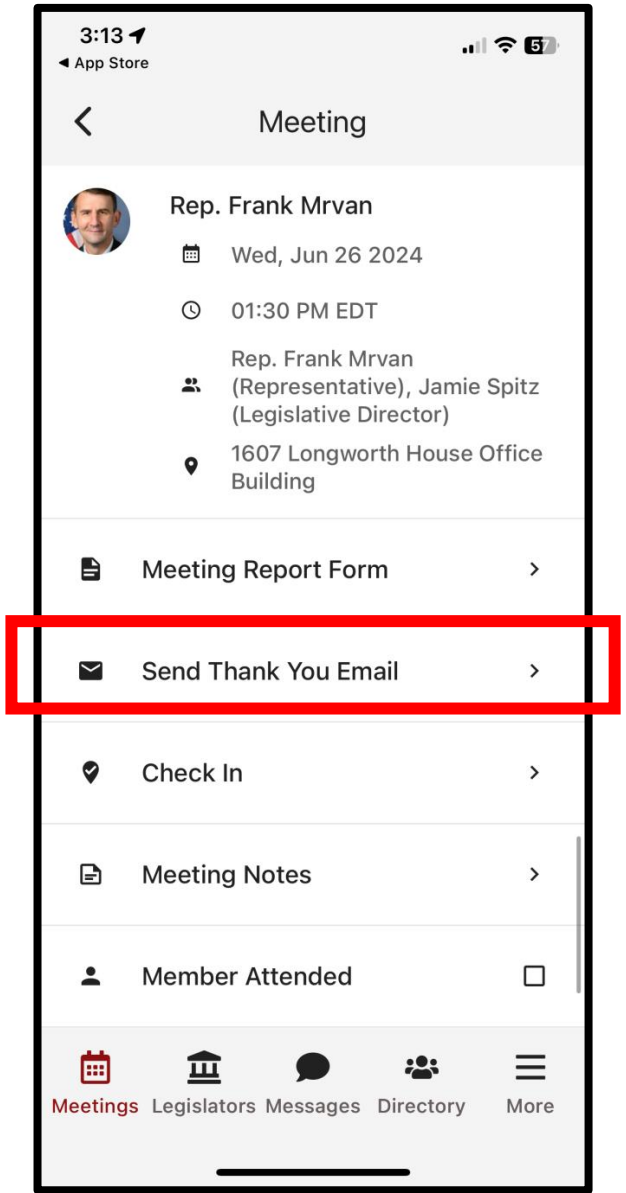
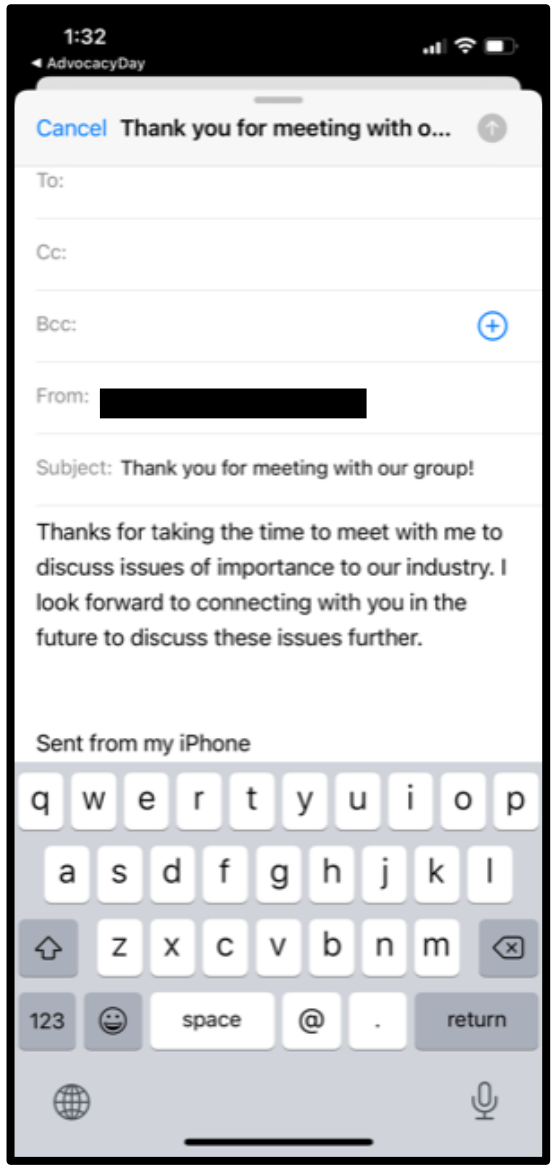
- Meeting report form





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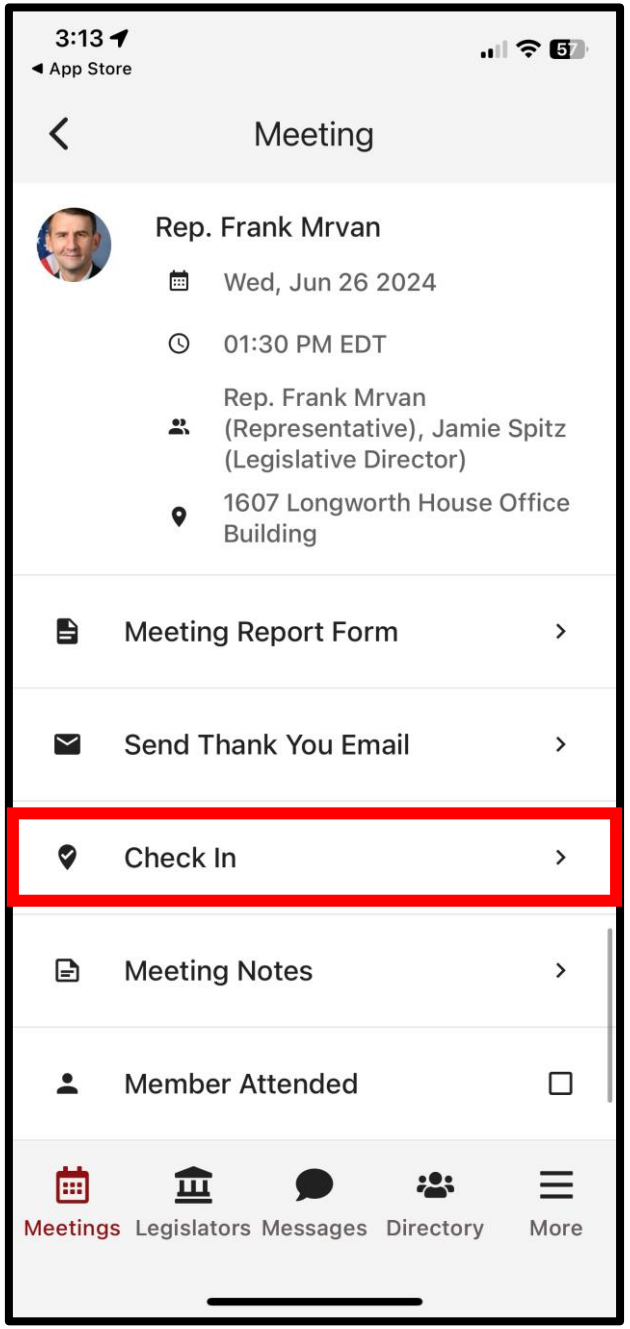
- Meeting report form
- Thank you email



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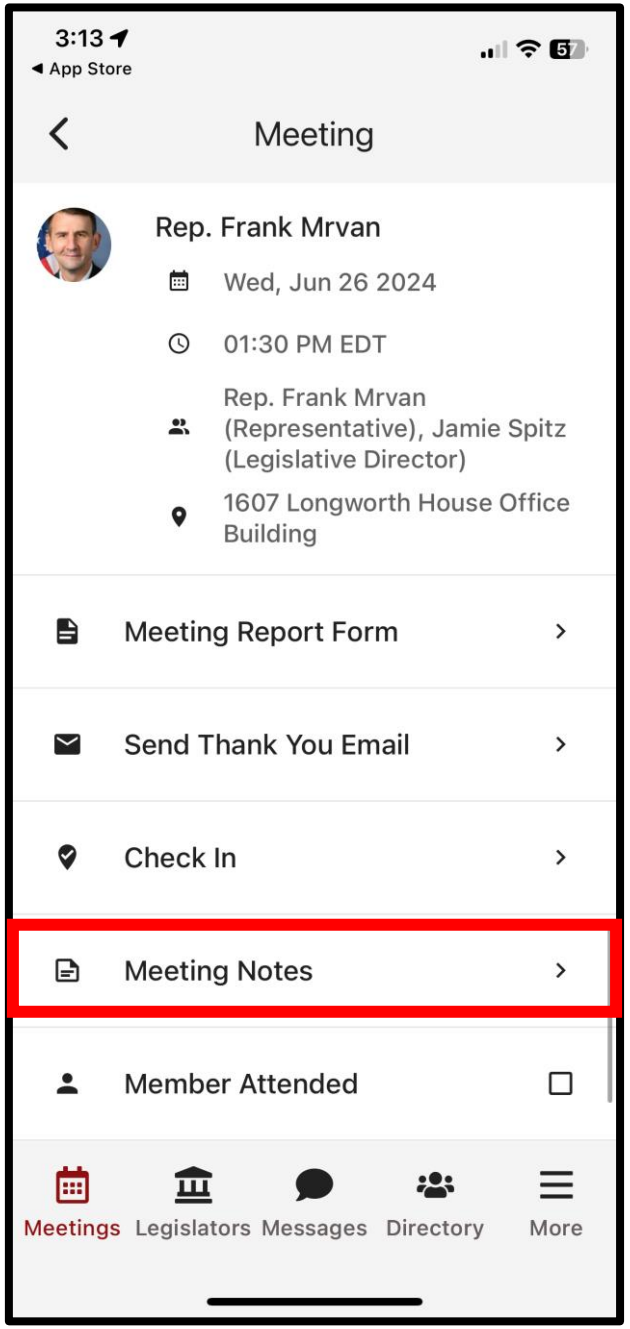
- Bills
- Meeting report form
- Thank you email
- Check in to report attendance



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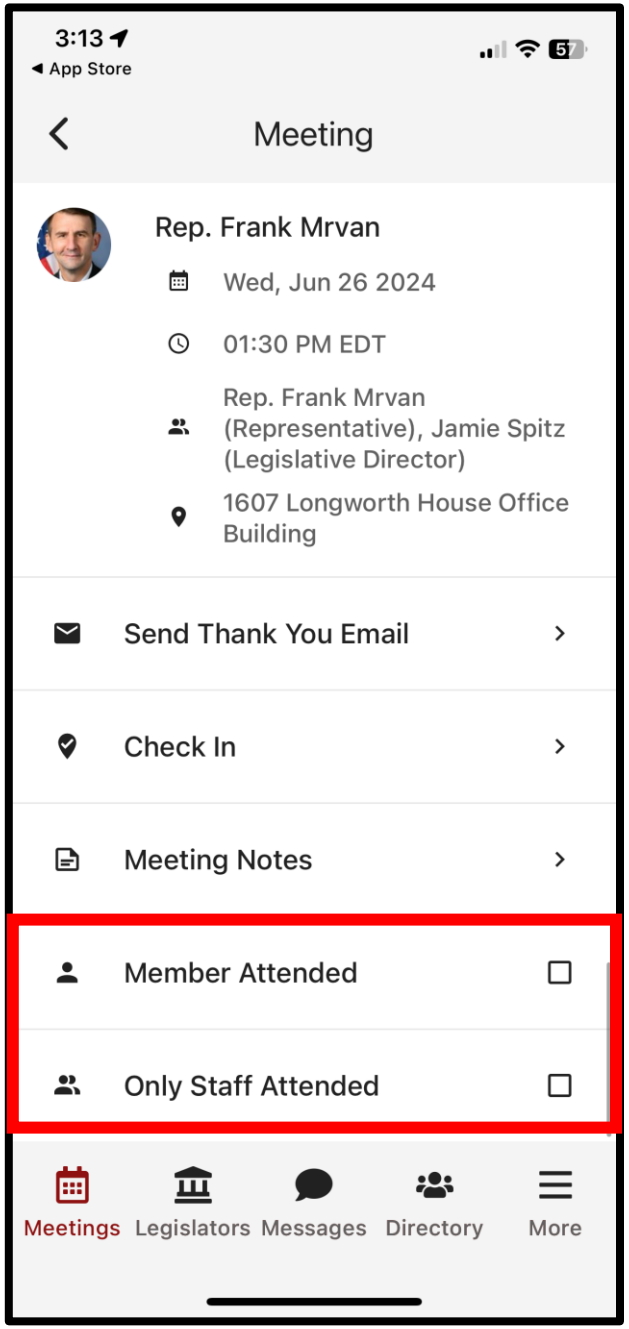
- Meeting report form
- Thank you email
- Check in to report attendance
- Take meeting notes



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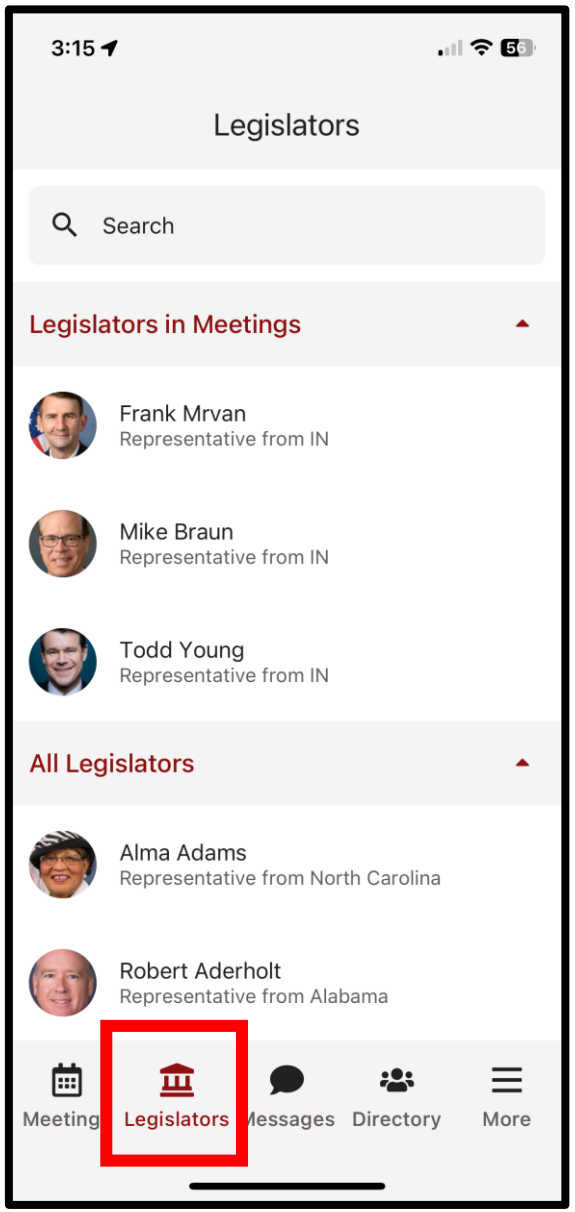
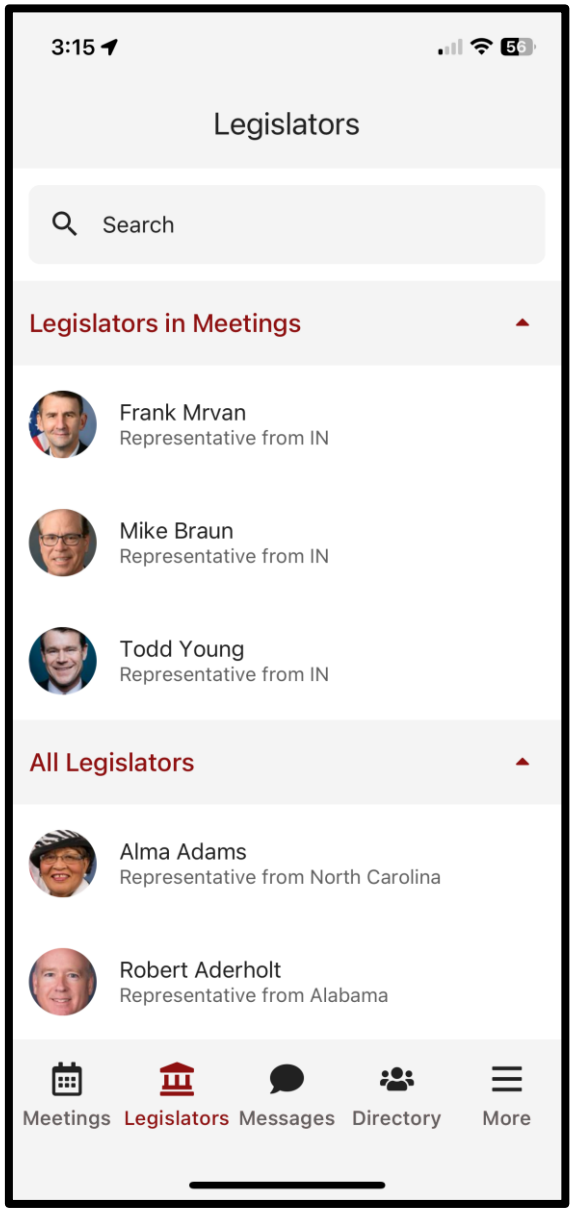
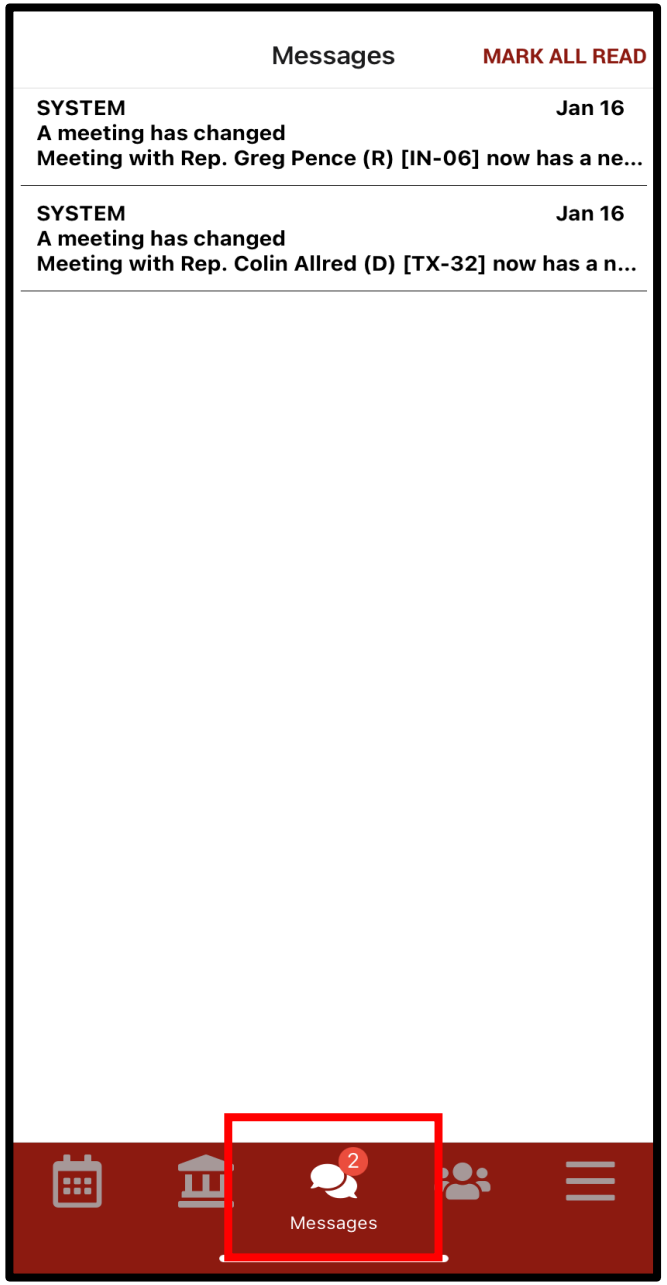
- Attendees in the meeting
- Talking points
- Documents and resources
- Bills
- Meeting report form
- Thank you email
- Check in to report attendance
- Take meeting notes
- Did the Member of Congress attend?



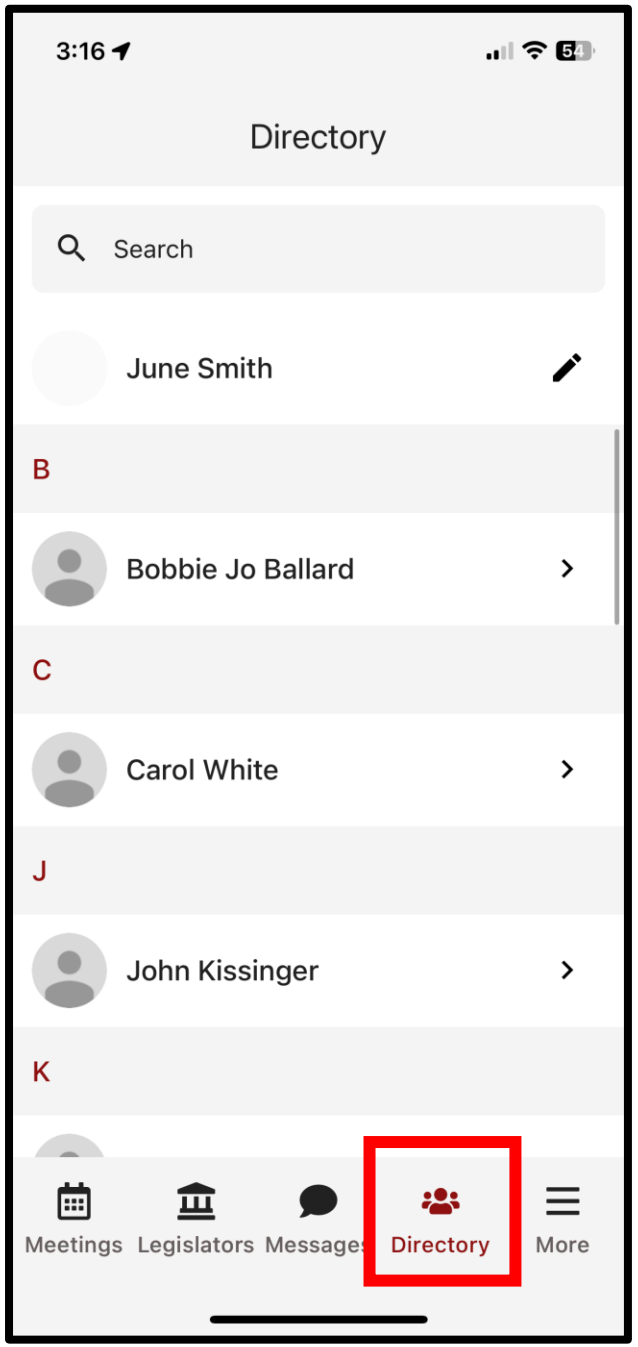
- Legislators tab, tap on each for a biography



- Legislators tab, tap on each for a biography
- Relevant bills with voting record, recent news mentions, committee assignments



- Legislators tab, tap on each for a biography
- Relevant bills with voting record, recent news mentions, committee assignments
- Messages tab to highlight any updates. You will also receive updates via push notification and email



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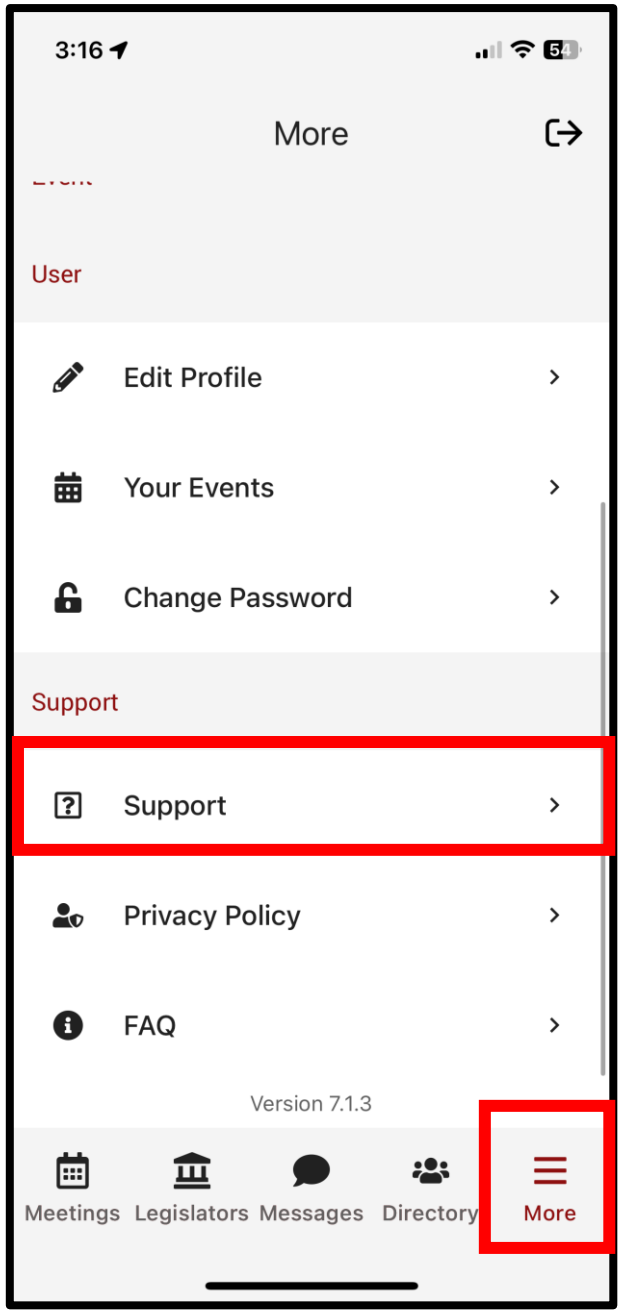
- Directory to look up attendees in your event. Tap to get more information



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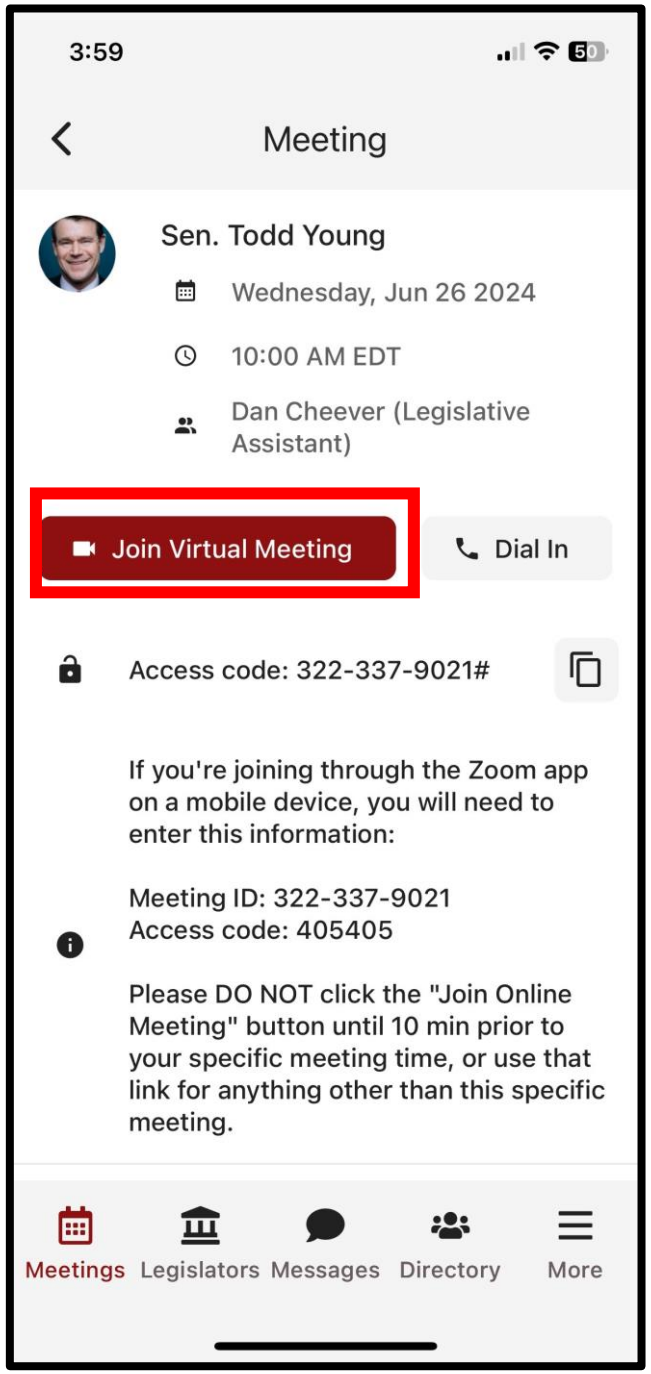
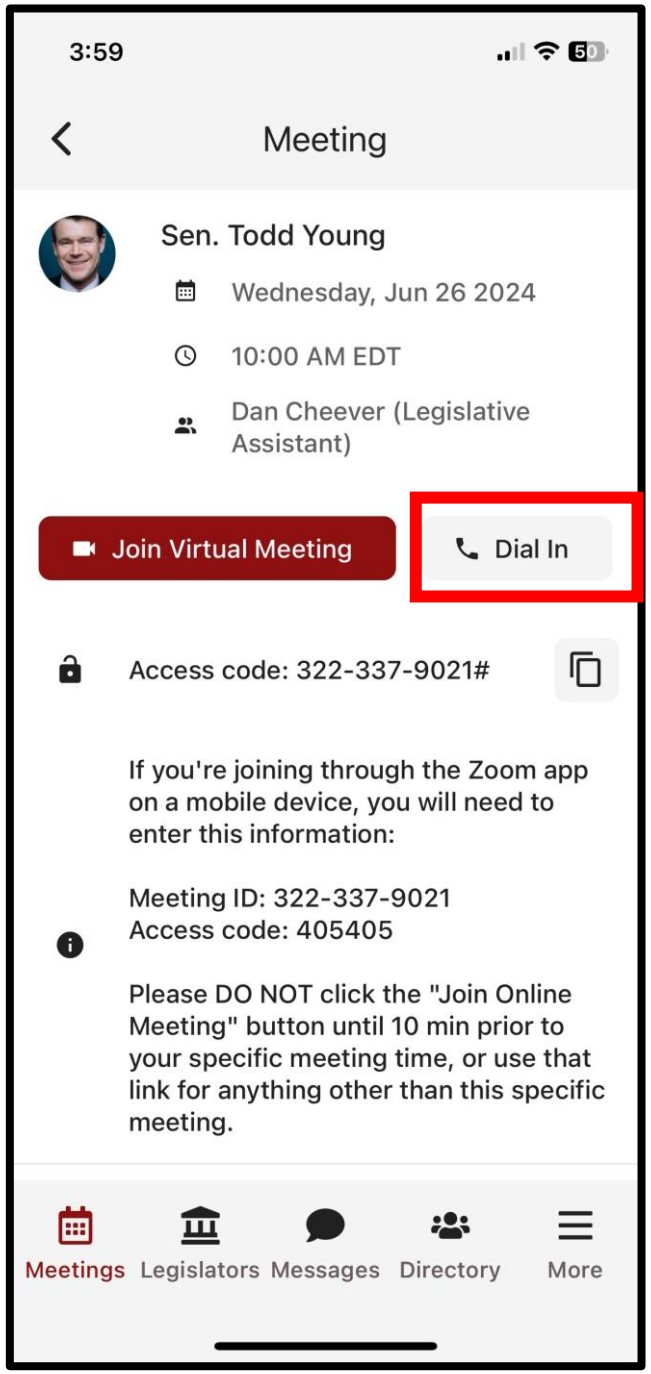
- Relevant bills with voting record, recent news mentions, committee assignments
- Messages tab to highlight any updates. You will also receive updates via push notification and email
- Directory to look up attendees in your event. Tap to get more information
- More tab for additional resources, importantly all SUPPORT and FAQs



Advocacy associates

Virtual Meetings

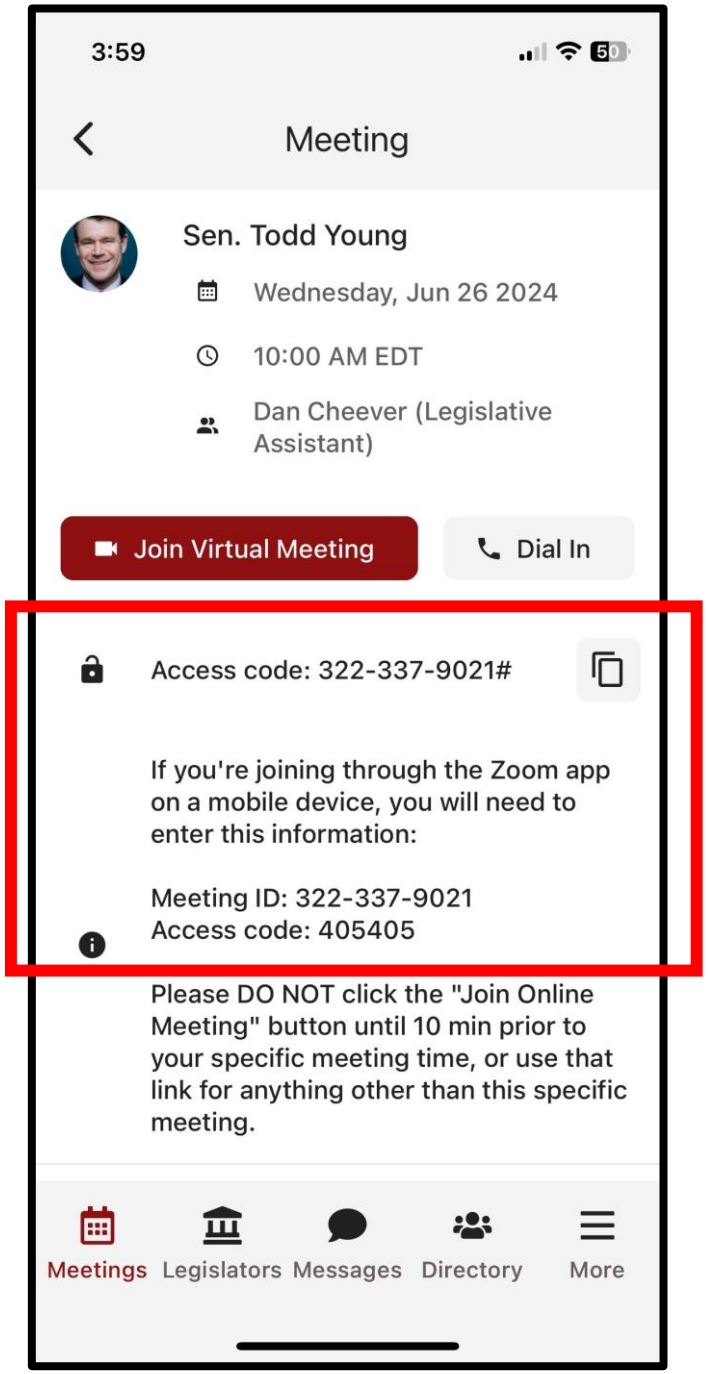
- Tap the Join Online Meeting button to join via video



Virtual Meetings

- Tap the Join Online Meeting button to join via video

- Tap the Dial-In button for audio only



Virtual Meetings

- Tap the Join Online Meeting button to join via video

- Tap the Dial-In button for audio only

- Information you may need if your mobile device prompts for it

Relevant Information and Reminders

- Check your **SPAM/JUNK folder** to ensure you didn't miss the initial email (domain is @advocacyassociates.com)
- Give yourself **30 minutes** to get through security and navigate your way to the office
- All times will be **displayed in the time zone you are located in**
- There will be a help number listed in the **Support** tab to call if you need to get ahold of Advocacy Associates
- Meetings may last anywhere from **15-30 minutes**, prepare your pitch and talking points accordingly. **ASK** how much time the office has
- Any changes to your schedule the day of the event **will be sent to you via push notification and email**. Please be sure to check regularly throughout the day. Updates will also be flagged in the **Messages tab in your app**

Hill Day Overview

Best Practices for Meeting with Congress

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2024 Political Landscape

- **Appropriations chaos kicks off the year**
  - Fiscal Year 2024 funding delayed; 6/12 bills currently passed
  - President's Fiscal Year 2025 budget published on 3/11
  - Working within budget caps for FY24 and FY25
- **Presidential election on the horizon**
  - Congress will be on recess for all of August and October
  - Members constantly thinking about how their actions could impact their chances for re-election
- **Top of mind: Foreign aid and border policies**
  - High-stakes negotiations around aid for Ukraine, Israel, Taiwan, etc. and funding for border policy enforcement

House of Representatives Leadership

Republicans hold the House majority in the 118th Congress

Rep. Mike Johnson (R-LA)

Speaker of the House

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY)

Minority Leader

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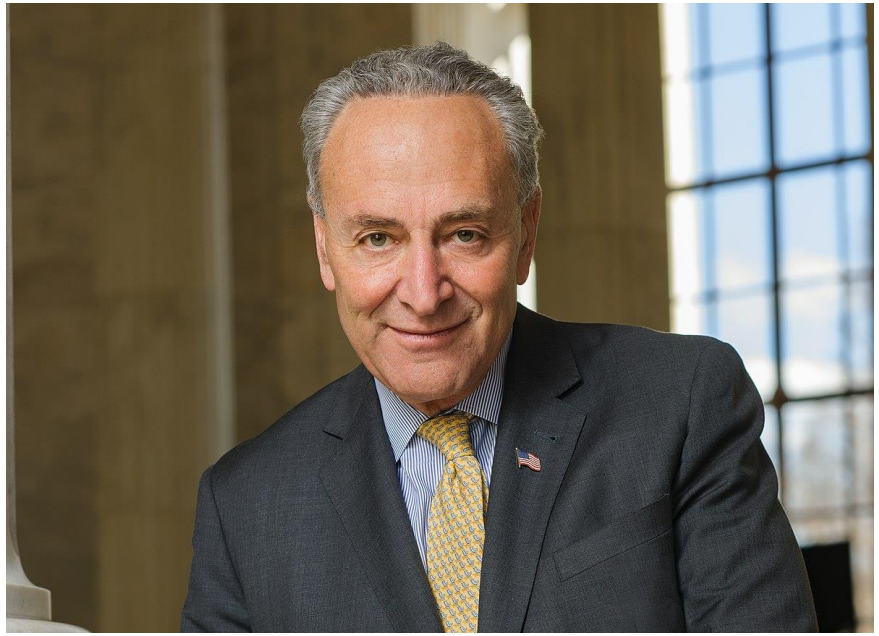
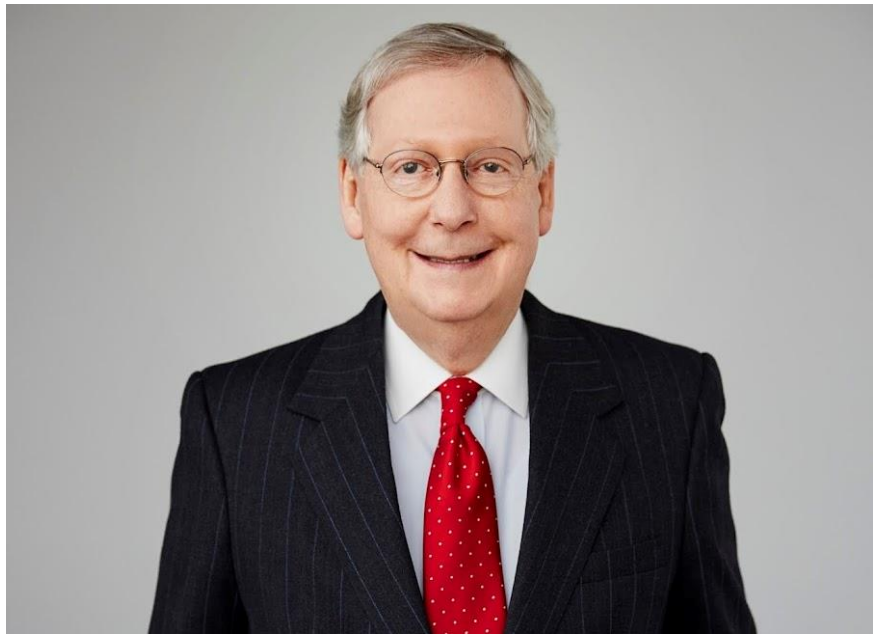
Senate Leadership

Democrats hold the Senate majority in the 118th Congress



Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY)

Majority Leader



Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY)

*Minority Leader****

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Housing-Related Committees

Authorizing ☑

- House Financial Services Committee
- Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee
- Tax Credits:
  - House Ways & Means Committee
  - Senate Finance Committee

Appropriating

- House Appropriations Transportation-HUD Subcommittee
- Senate Appropriations Transportation-HUD Subcommittee

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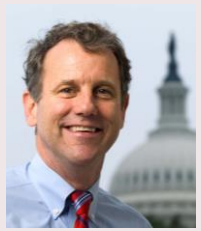
Committee	Chair (Majority)		Ranking Member (Minority)	
House Financial Services Committee	Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-NC)		Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA)	
Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee	Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)		Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC)	
House Appropriations T-HUD Subcommittee	Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK)		Rep. Mike Quigley (D-IL)	
Senate Appropriations T-HUD Subcommittee	Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI)		Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS)	

Housing-Related Committee Leadership

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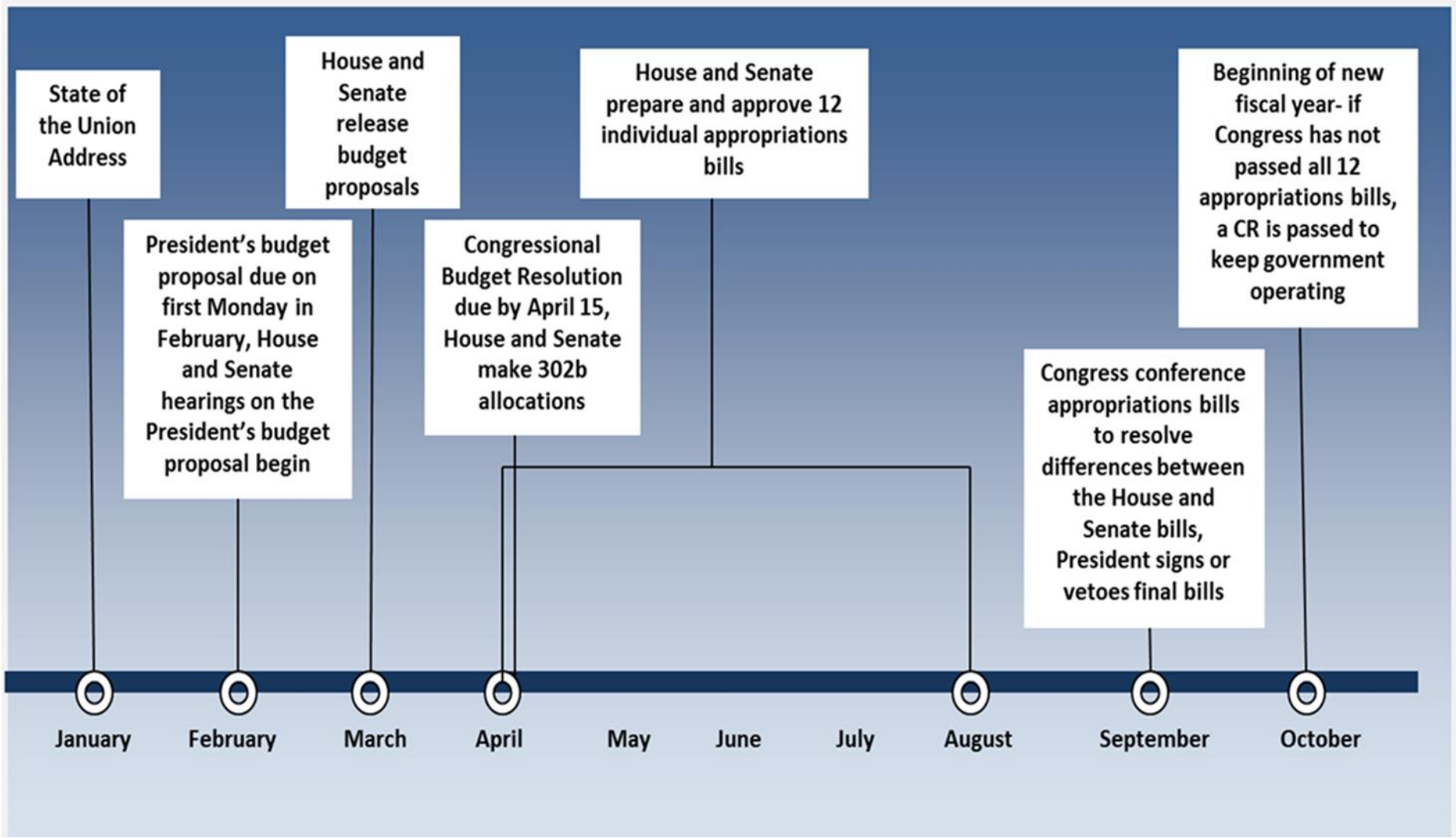
Appropriations: Expectation



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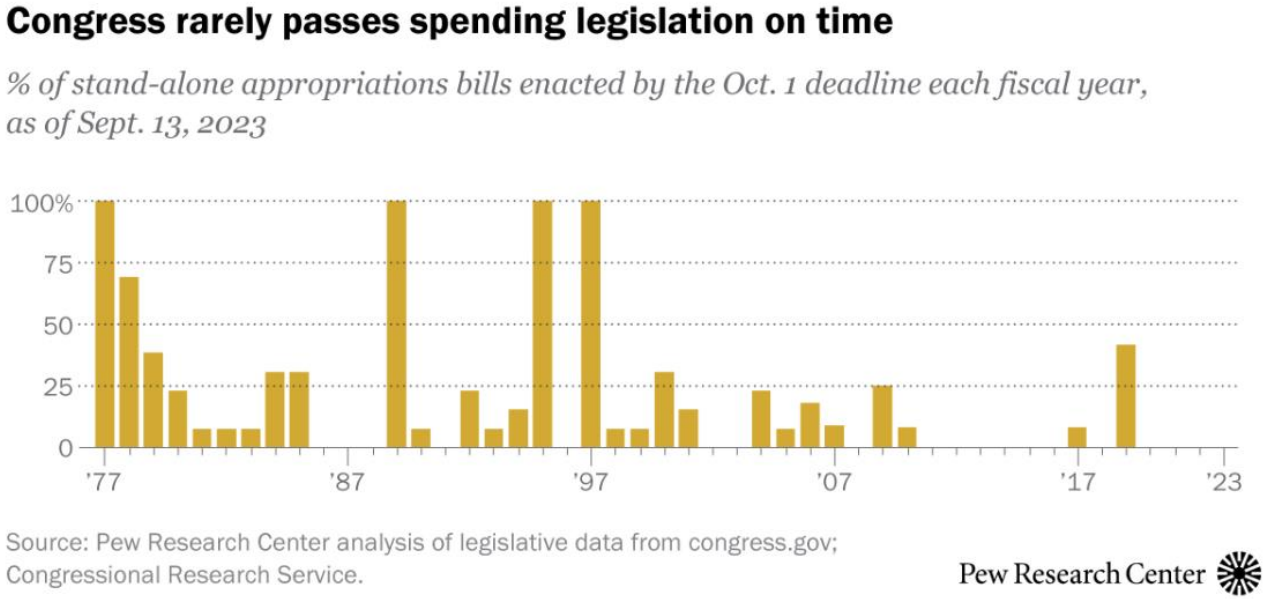
Appropriations: Reality

- The last time Congress passed all appropriations bills on time **was in the 1990s.**
- When appropriations are delayed, we either get:
  - *Continuing Resolutions* (common) – temporarily extends funding from the previous fiscal year
  - *Government Shutdowns* (rare) – government agencies do not have the funding to continue operating



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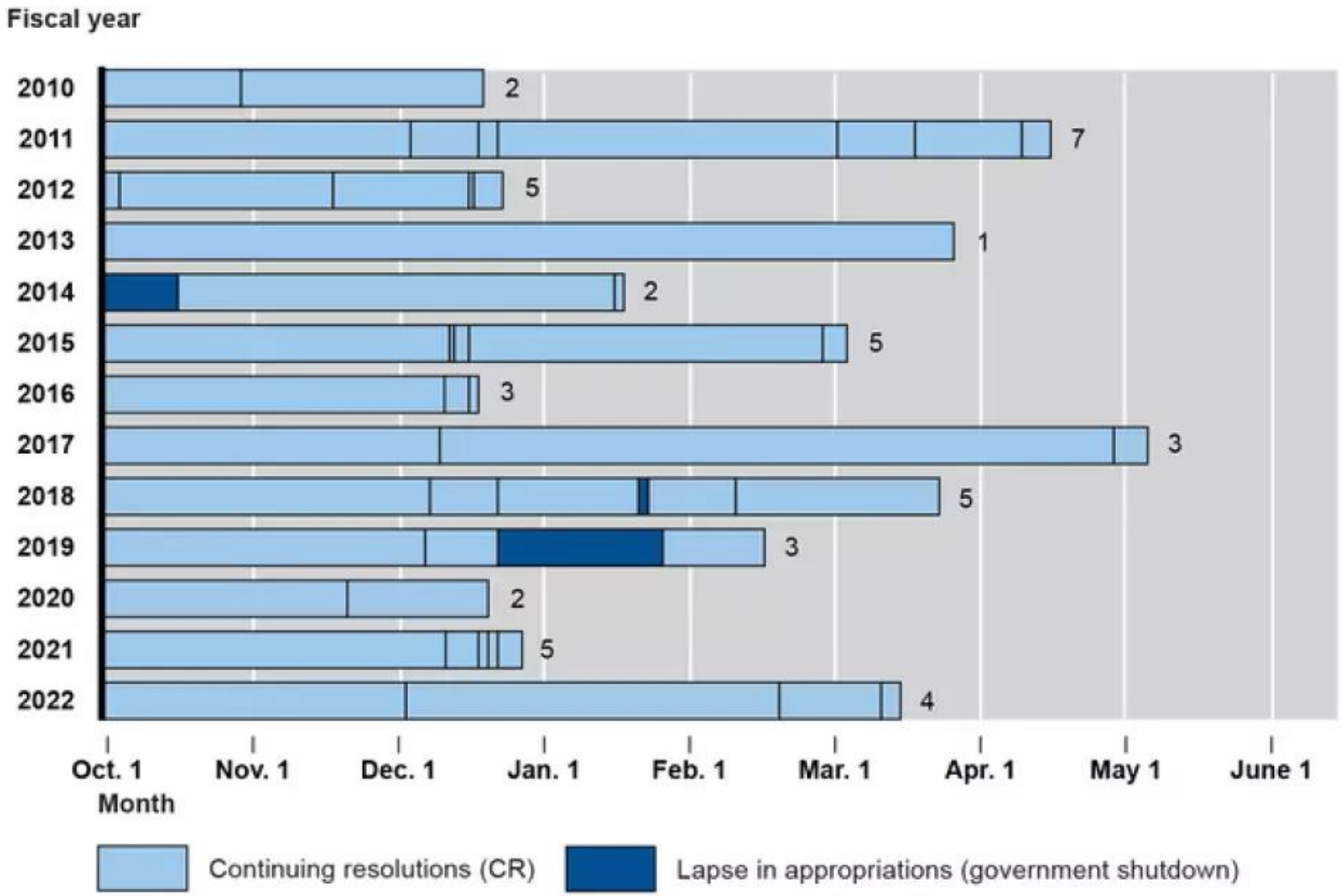

Source: GAO analysis of applicable laws. | GAO-22-104701

Duration and Number of CRs and Government Shutdowns

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Fiscal Year 2024 Funding

- Thank your members of Congress for protecting HUD against unreasonable budget cuts in FY24.
- Several HUD programs received modest funding increases:
  - Voucher renewal funding (HAP) - $28,491 million ($2,089 million **increase**)
  - Mainstream vouchers - $743 million ($136 million **increase**)
  - Project-Based Rental Assistance - $16,010 ($1,103 million **increase**)
  - Public Housing Operating Fund - $5,476 million ($367 million **increase**)
  - Homeless Assistance Grants - $4,051 million ($418 million **increase**)

President's FY25 HUD Budget

Program	**Proposed Funding** (Comparison to FY24 Enacted)
Voucher Renewal Funding (HAP)	$29,251 million ($760 million **increase**)
Administrative Fees	$2,964 million ($193 million **decrease**)
Tenant Protection Vouchers	$300 million ($37 million **decrease**)
Project-Based Rental Assistance	$16,686 million ($676 million **increase**)
New general-purpose vouchers	$241 million ($241 million **increase**)
PH Operating Fund	$5,050 million ($426 million **decrease**)
PH Operating Fund Shortfall	$178 million ($153 million **increase**)
PH Capital Fund	$3,200 million (level funding)
HOME Program	$1,250 million (level funding)
Community Development Block Grants	$2,845 million ($455 million **decrease**)
Homeless Assistance Grants	$4,060 million ($9 million **increase**)
Choice Neighborhoods	$140 million ($65 million **increase**)

Bipartisan Tax Package

- In late January, the House passed a bipartisan tax package that includes measures to expand the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)
  - *Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act*
- If passed, the measures are estimated to produce an additional **200,000 units** of affordable housing.
- Urge your Senators to support the LIHTC provisions in the tax package.
- Urge all your members of Congress to co-sponsor the ***Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act***

PREPARATION FOR A SUCCESSFUL OFFICE VISIT

What should you wear?

Business Attire

NAHRO Branding

We will provide all conference registrants with a complimentary NAHRO advocate button to wear on Capitol Hill!

Things to Know about Member Offices and the US Capitol Campus

- You may enter House and Senate Office buildings feely upon passing a metal detector.
- Capitol Police are a great resource for finding your way.
- In-person meetings generally last about 15-30 minutes.
- Congressional offices vary in size based on the seniority of the member – this is important to account for when determining the size of your group.
- If you require a wheelchair or accessibility services, reach out to the office you're visiting ahead of Hill Day.

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Senate Office Buildings

- Russell
- Dirksen
- Hart

House Office Buildings

- Rayburn
- Longworth
- Cannon
- Ford
- O'Neill

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Researching the Member

- You can start by looking up the website for your member of Congress.
  - Their websites usually contain their personal biographies, a map of their district, policy stances, archived press releases, etc.
- Referencing parts of a member's biography, especially a shared connection you may have, shows that you have done your research and can help establish a relationship.
- Learn more about the members' committee assignments and work they've done that may relate to affordable housing and community development.

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Crafting Your Message

- Planning out your talking points with your group in advance is important to maximize the limited time you will have with the office.
- Your requests should be specific and within the power of the office you're in (i.e., supporting specific legislation)
- Providing the member or staff with NAHRO's Policy Priorities and Legislative & Regulatory can help make sure everyone remembers key points raised in your meeting.

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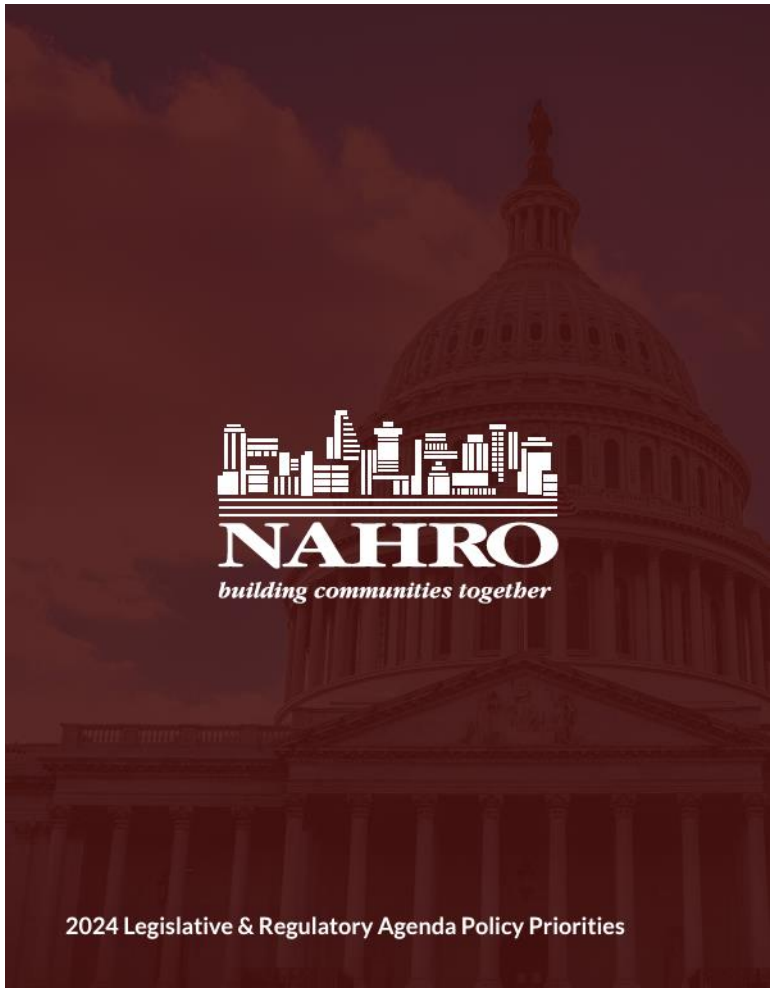
NAHRO 2024 Policy Priorities



"We want ***adequate and responsible funding*** that provides housing and community development agencies the ability to implement ***holistic and equitable approaches to community development*** as well as ***build and preserve affordable units through streamlined programs*** that allow for ***creative, local solutions.***

Considering Your Team

- It is important to have a diversity of voices on the issues.
- Plan out who will lead the meeting and who will cover which talking points so there is no uncertainty or overlapping speakers.
- Your Capitol Hill Day will take place while Congress is “in session,” meaning a busy office will be juggling meetings, sometimes at competing times.
- Flexibility will be appreciated and remembered by staffers and will help build long-term partnerships with them.

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Like any first meeting, you'll need to introduce yourselves. Provide enough information but stay mindful of time.

Thank the member or staffer for meeting with you.

Do your best to make it through all the points of your message, but don't be afraid to pause.

If you do not know something, politely say that you're unsure and you will follow up.

You can end the meeting on a positive note by asking if the group could take a picture.

STRUCTURING YOUR VISIT

Capitol Hill Day Follow Up

- Always send a follow-up email thanking the member and staff for meeting with you.
- Make sure to include any information or resources you promised to send after the meeting.
- If there are any events in your area that may be relevant to the topics discussed at your meeting, invite the member and their relevant staff.
- Invite the member to visit your agency when they are in the district!

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Questions? Contact Us

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