

Handouts
October 2012

LOBBYING 101 HELPFUL WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

REGISTER TO VOTE:

<https://www.usvotefoundation.org/vote/home.htm>

CONGRESSIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Contacting the Congress is a very up-to-date citizen's congressional directory for the **112th Congress**. As of October 17, 2011 there are 539 electronic contact addresses (of which 536 are Web-based contact forms), and 540 home pages known for the 540 members of the **112th Congress**. Traditional ground mail addresses are available for all current members of Congress. <http://www.contactingthecongress.org>

Current Congressional Leadership

<http://www.contactingthecongress.org/cgi-bin/leadership.cgi?site=ctc2011>

Voting Histories/Recent Activities of Congressmembers:

- [THOMAS: Legislative Information on the Internet](#) The official source of information from the U.S. Congress.
- [Senate Roll Call Votes](#): This is where you can look up the voting records on floor votes for every member of the Senate.
- [U.S. House of Representatives Roll Call Votes](#): The place to look up the floor votes in the House.
- [Project Vote Smart WWW Homepage](#) lists full voting records and ratings by political groups (on both the left and right of the political spectrum) of members of Congress.
- [Voter Information Services \(VIS\)](#) provides ratings on Congressmembers based on their voting records compared to the beliefs of certain groups. VIS itself claims to be non-partisan.
- [Political Moneyline](#): Since money can influence politicians in very shady ways, I have included for your perusal this link to a non-partisan page listing lots on information about Federal candidates and their contributors.

Other Sites with Contact Information for Congress members:

- [FirstGov](#): The Federal Government attempt to keep track of its own websites.
- [Government Resources on the Web](#): Put together by Grace York at the U Michigan Documents Center, this site is a very, very complete listing of

Government information available on the Net. Use it to find almost anything about anybody or any agency in the U.S. Government and some foreign ones.

Sites specializing in Political News:

- [Roll Call](#) is "the newspaper of Capitol Hill since 1955." They offer news from the Hill everyday, usually in a long, more detailed format than available in your standard newspaper.
- [The Hill](#): "The Capitol Newspaper" provides weekly in-depth stories on the activities of the denizens of Capitol Hill.
- [C-SPAN WWW Homepage](#): The first major television network dedicated solely to covering Politics.

State-level Government Information:

- For a quick and easy list of State Governors' WWW sites and email addresses, check out [UMich Documents Center Governor Email Addresses and WWW sites list](#), provided by Grace York.
- Project Vote Smart provides lots of [State-level Government](#) information (which I link to on the individual state pages on this site).

Miscellaneous but Interesting Sites Related To Federal Politics:

- [U. S. Founding Documents](#): Contains copies of the Original U.S. Constitution and U.S. Declaration of Independence and other Founding documents for the United States in almost every format imaginable.

Media Information Sources

- National Public Radio (NPR) <http://www.npr.org>
- British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) <http://www.bbc.co.uk>
- *The Economist*
- Public Policy Matters <http://publicpolicymatters.com/09-20klm.html>
- Wall Street Journal
- Washington Post
- New York Times
- Comedy - John Stewart's "The Daily Show"

What is a “Call to Action”

Housing cooperative members across the country flooded Congressional leadership offices with calls urging the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to take action before leaving for summer recess.

Did you and members of your cooperative contact them? If not, how can we make the above sentence become a reality?

When you are sent a “**call to action**” take it seriously and follow up by making a call or sending an e-mail to your elected official. If everyone does it I promise you, it will make a difference. It’s the only way you will have a voice on issues that matter to you.

A congressional “call to action” is an urgent request for you to respond immediately by contacting your Members of Congress and weighing in on an issue.

Democracy is about participatory government. Teach your cooperative members how to be part of the process.

***Contacting the Congress** is a very up-to-date citizen's congressional directory for the **112th Congress**. As of June 22, 2012 there are 539 electronic contact addresses (of which 536 are Web-based contact forms), and 539 home pages known for the 540 members of the **112th Congress**. Traditional ground mail addresses are available for all current members of Congress.*

<http://www.contactingthecongress.org>