

NPCA Capitol Hill Advocacy Day!

Overview of State Resources

Congressional Profiles and One Page State Summaries

Congressional Profiles

For each state and every currently serving member of Congress, you will find a two page summary for your members of Congress. This summary will be attached to the information packet that you will provide and leave with the office during your meeting (Be sure to remove the information before you go into this meeting)

On the first page, the information you will find include:

- Building and room number and phone number for the office.
- Year when the lawmaker began serving in Congress (with a special reference if they are a new member of Congress).
- Committee assignments...(Some) caucuses they have joined?
- Staff that handles foreign policy issues (you may, or may not be meeting with them).
- NPCA meeting history with the lawmaker/office.

On the second page, you will find information, most notably:

- Did they sign (in green) or not sign (in red) the 2025 Peace Corps funding “Dear Colleague” letter calling for increased Peace Corps funding, and past history in signing these letters.
- Did they co-sponsor (in green) or not (in red) Peace Corps Reauthorization Act legislation in the previous Congress (this legislation has not yet been introduced this year).
- Any item listed in green is favorable to the Peace Corps. Any item listed in red is (in NPCA’s view) not favorable to the Peace Corps).

FOUR OTHER THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THESE PROFILES

1. **Lack of “Green” isn’t always “Mean”:** Don’t assume that red markers for some lawmakers is always an indicator that they oppose the Peace Corps. A good example of this is that some members who are now members of the Appropriations Committee, may choose to no longer sign the Peace Corps funding letters.
2. **With that said...**If you do see a lot of green, that means your lawmaker is a great supporter of the Peace Corps, and this can be a great way to start your meeting by saying “thank you” for supporting the Peace Corps.
3. **Caucus Watch:** Caucuses are an informal grouping of lawmakers (mostly in the House) on a particular issue or interest. The information on our sheets is incomplete, but we tried to highlight some key caucuses that can perhaps give you an indication of where they stand. For example:

- The “Freedom Caucus” is perhaps the most conservative caucus in Congress, while the “Progressive Caucus” is perhaps the most liberal caucus in Congress.
 - The “Republican Study Committee” is focused on fiscal conservatism and reducing government spending/deficits.
 - The “Main Street” and “Problem Solvers” Caucuses are viewed as more middle of the road, bipartisan groups looking to cross party lines to find bipartisan solutions.
 - There is a House “Peace Corps” Caucus (see page two of your House member’s profile to see their status. There is also a National Service Caucus, and a “For Country” Caucus made up of military veterans who come together around the spirit of service to our nation.
 - You can go to the website of your lawmakers (especially House members) for more detailed information on their caucus membership. Many lawmakers are part of groupings focused on particular countries or regions (e.g. Ukraine, Asia/Pacific American), or issues (e.g. Human Rights, Climate Solutions).
- 4. Want to Go Deeper?** Visit the official pages of your elected representatives. Check out their biographies to see if there is any connective tissue (you attended the same university, their previous professions, etc.). You can also check out their social media or “issues” section of their website to see if there are any connections you may want to note during your meetings.

One Page State Summaries

This page will be included in the packets that you leave behind during your office meetings. For those of you focused on a particular state, the summary should be in your personal packet.

More than any other item that you may give to the office during your meetings, this is the page that may resonate the most with the staff. Over the years, the number one question staff want to know is how many people are serving/have served in the Peace Corps. Unfortunately, we do not have a breakdown by congressional district. But we do have state statistics. In addition, this document provides additional state specific information, including:

- **State Rankings:** Some information on how your state ranks in sending Peace Corps Volunteers.
- **Educational Partnerships:** Peace Corps partnerships with colleges/universities in your state.
- **NPCA Affiliate Groups:** A listing of NPCA geographic affiliate groups from your state, and a highlight or two of those groups in terms of their “Third Goal” work regarding volunteer activity and charitable giving.

- **Other Profiles:** There may be a highlight of an individual RPCV who is highlighted for professional achievement, other recognition, or recent Peace Corps service.

THREE OTHER THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THESE SUMMARIES

- **Peace Corps Numbers are Approximations:** The “currently serving” and “Volunteers Since 1961” numbers are a moment in time (in this case, early 2025). Volunteers, and their states of origin, are always changing, so these numbers should be viewed as approximations. For example, if your state says 12 volunteers are serving, you can probably say, between 10 and 15 volunteers are currently serving from your state.
- **Historical Numbers:** In the one page document, we have included volunteer numbers in the late 1960’s (the high water mark, when approximately 15,000 Peace Corps Volunteers were serving). While this will not be the case for all states, in some states the number of volunteers serving in the late 1960’s far surpass the number of volunteers serving in recent (including and especially) pre-pandemic years. These numbers could be indicators of the potential for renewed growth of Peace Corps recruitment.
- **Tell Your Own “Third Goal” Story:** These documents don’t come close to sharing all the good works done by Returned Peace Corps Volunteers or affiliate groups in your state. Amplify this document in your meetings to tell more about how our community makes our country safer, stronger and more prosperous!

Capitol Hill Advocacy 101: Five Additional Recommendations for Newcomers

1. **Wear Comfortable Shoes and Clothing!** Capitol Hill Day involves a lot of walking. So, as many advocates in the past have said, wear comfortable shoes! It is likely going to be very hot on July 21st, so while we ask you to dress professionally, plan to try and dress comfortably. Some RPCVs in the past have joined us in the dress of their nation. We welcome that as well!
2. **Lean In.** Some first-time advocates feel a little intimidated as they start the day. That’s okay. In our experience, first-time Capitol Hill advocates may feel a little uncertain in their first meeting, and maybe take a limited role in the second meeting. BUT, by the third meeting, they settle in and find their groove. We hope all our advocates “find their groove” and enjoy their day on Capitol Hill.
3. **Where Will You Meet?** Be ready for everything. In some cases, you will be invited into the lawmaker’s office and have 20 – 25 minutes for a discussion. In other instances, you may have your meeting in the hallway, and have only five minutes to make your case. This is not about you! It is about what might be happening when we are on Capitol Hill.
4. **Things to Bring (Or Not?):** When you enter Congressional offices, you will be going through security, similar to airport security. You can bring water (it will go

through x-ray). There are also water fountains/hydration stations in the House/Senate offices. Try to keep your metal to a minimum, and discard (into the metal detector any Peace Corps buttons or other items (belts, jewelry, etc.) before going through security.

5. **Let the Constituents Lead!** You may be in some meetings where you are the constituent (with others who are not constituents). Or, you may be in a meeting where you are not the constituent. In all cases, the constituent should be a leader of the meeting, and non-constituents should play an appropriate role based on the circumstance.