

CONGRESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT DURING THE AUGUST RECESS

(Or Any Time, Really)

Maximizing Your Impact





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AGENDA

- Congressional/Legislative Update & Perspective
- How to identify opportunities to engage with your Member of Congress (Representatives and Senators) during the August Recess.
- Tips and Tricks to make them stop and think.
- Honey or Vinegar? What's the right tone?
- Framing and Connecting: Which angle to take?
- Asks – how to identify the appropriate asks, how to make them, and how to follow-up on them.
- Thinking beyond the Member – engaging the mechanisms of local party politics.

BUT FIRST... WHAT IS RECESS

- Technically a “District Work Period”

STEVE SCALISE MAJORITY LEADER											
JANUARY				FEBRUARY				MARCH			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11		2	3	4	5
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		9	10	11	12
19	20	21	22	23	24	25		16	17	18	19
26	27	28	29	30	31			23	24	25	26
								30	31		
APRIL				MAY				JUNE			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12		8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	18	19		15	16	17	18
20	21	22	23	24	25	26		22	23	24	25
27	28	29	30					29	30		
JULY				AUGUST				SEPTEMBER			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12		7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17	18	19		14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24	25	26		21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31				28	29	30	
OCTOBER				NOVEMBER				DECEMBER			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11		7	8	9	10
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		14	15	16	17
19	20	21	22	23	24	25		21	22	23	24
26	27	28	29	30	31			28	29	30	31

House Calendar | 119th Congress | First Session

Travel (CODELs,
NODELs)

Vacation

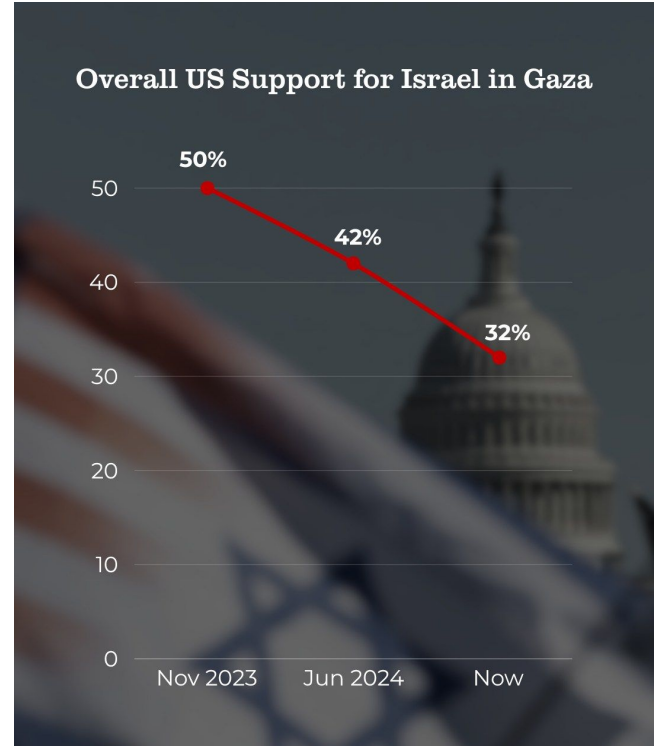
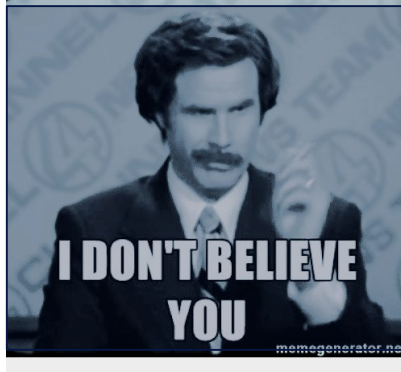
District
Engagement



CONGRESSIONAL & LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Where we are now

- Recent Letters and Statements
 - Van Hollen +20 GHF Letter
 - Coons +5 Ranking Members Statement
 - Schiff +43 Gaza Statement
 - Meeks +3 Ranking Members Statement
 - Casten +92 GHF Letter
- JRD Votes
 - Nov 24: 19&18 Mar 25: 15 Jul 25: 27&24



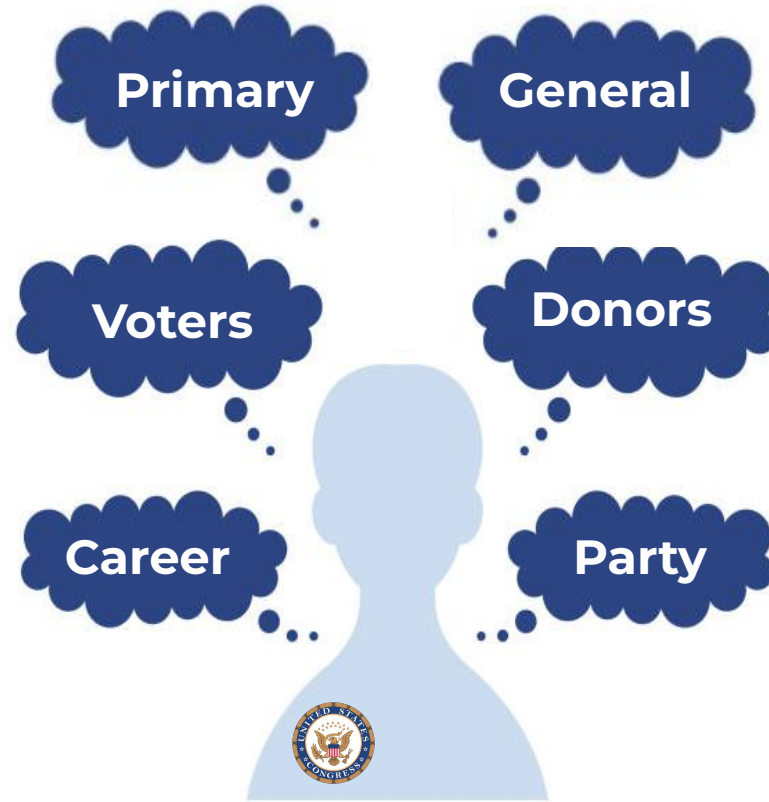
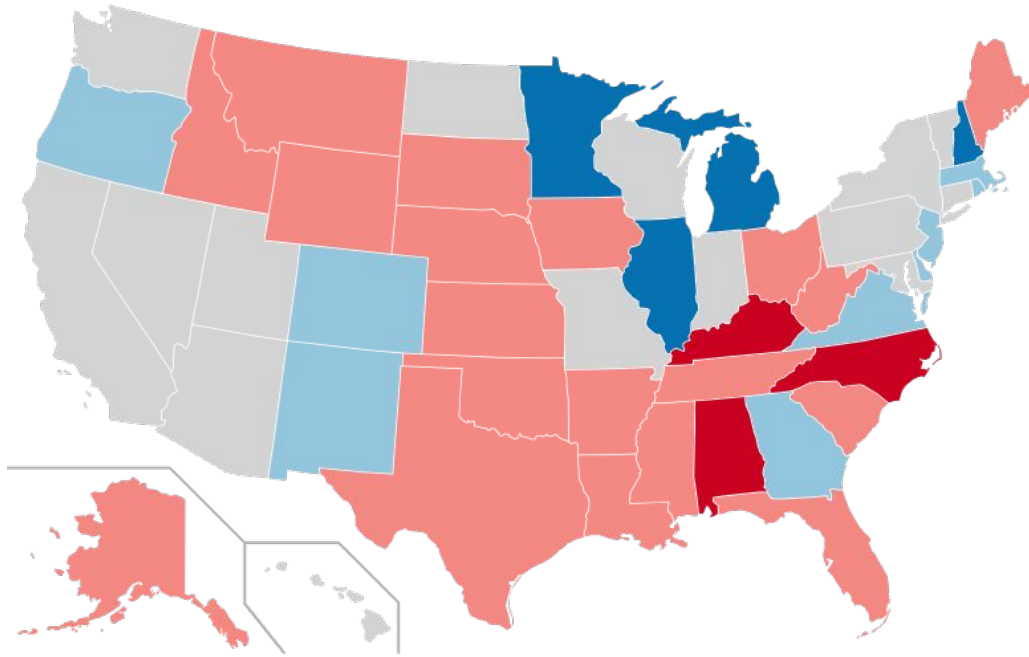
CONGRESSIONAL/LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Coming after the recess
 - NDAA
 - WRSA & Defense Cooperation expansion
 - 649 Senate Amendments Filed
 - Appropriations
 - FY2026 bill bans all U.S. funding and diplomatic support for UNRWA, unprecedented in scope.
 - UN-wide funding frozen unless UNRWA accountability met for October 7 ties and staff misconduct.
 - Israel's FMF unchanged; Palestinian aid faces new ICJ trigger, Gaza resettlement ban, and tighter oversight

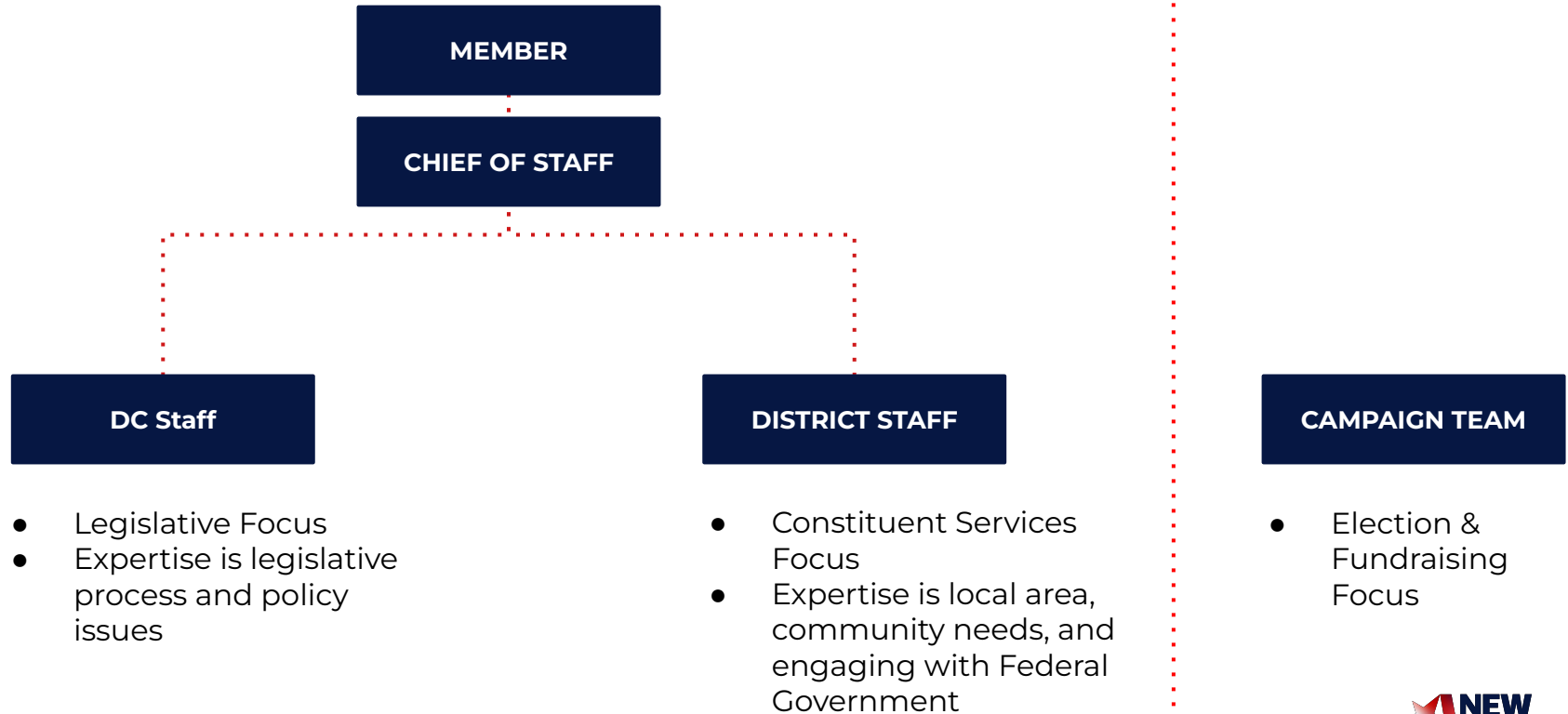
Quick Note on Floor Amendments

- House - Rules Committee (Republican Supermajority) selects Amendments - all about politics, not good faith.
- Senate - Majority & Minority Leaders negotiate and pick Amendments

MIDTERMS ON THE HORIZON



QUICK REVIEW - MEMBER OFFICE STRUCTURES



TYPES OF EVENTS

Town Halls and Public Events: These are meetings hosted by Members of Congress (MOCs) where they directly address constituents, share updates, and answer questions. Many members will announce town hall forums, listening sessions and other public events, some in a virtual setting, most live, geared toward gauging constituent views and interests.

In-District Meetings: You can request to meet with your MOC or their staff at their district or state office to discuss specific concerns or issues important to you or your community. Connecting with local organizations sharing similar concerns can increase the likelihood of securing a meeting.

Site Visits: Inviting your MOC to visit a local business, program, or organization impacted by federal policy allows them to see firsthand the effects of their decisions and policies.

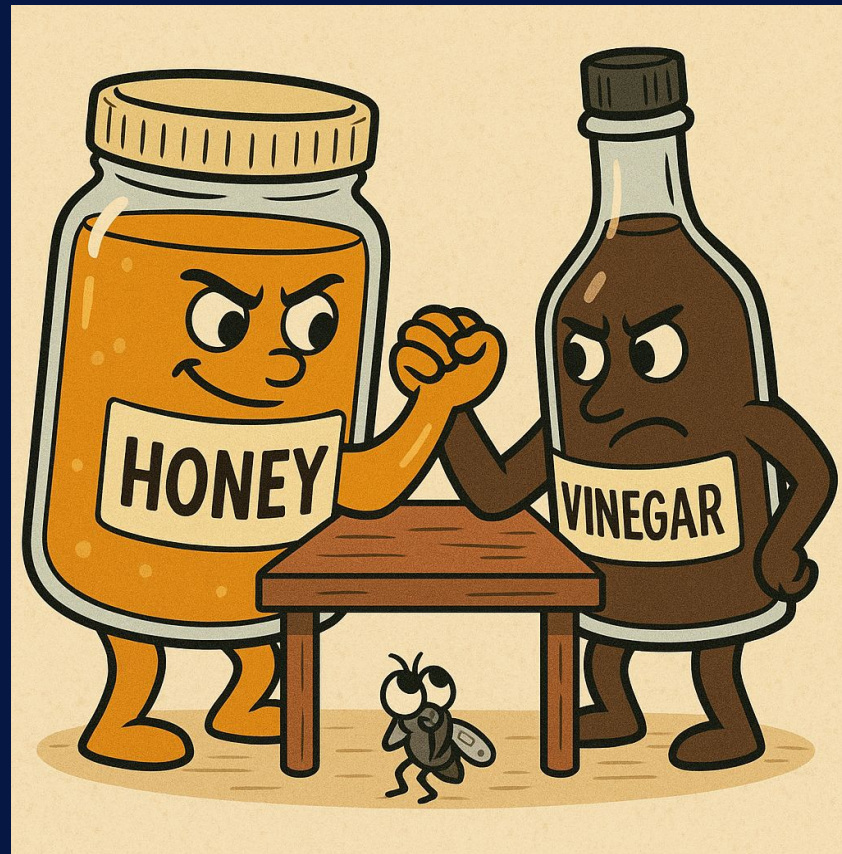


HOW TO IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE WITH YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS (REPRESENTATIVES & SENATORS) DURING THE AUGUST RECESS



HONEY OR VINEGAR: WHAT'S THE RIGHT TONE?

- **Context** - Public Event or Personal Engagement?
- **Your credibility** - are you a donor?
- **Their Potential** - have you given up on them or is there still hope for them to shift?
- **Their Re-Electability** - are they a lock or are they facing a credible challenger?



FRAMING: WHICH ANGLE TO TAKE?

- What's their focus?
 - How to tell - review past statements, check their webpage - ask AI!
- What's their constituency?
 - Accountability
- Who else is in the room?
- Options:
 - Human Rights/Appeal to Conscience
 - American Interests (Credibility, Global Leadership, Rules Based Order, Defense Readiness, etc)
 - My Tax Dollars!
 - American Freedoms

TIPS AND TRICKS TO MAKE THEM STOP AND THINK

- **Connecting**
 - Any personal ties (college, profession, military service, etc)?
 - Can you use that connection to help frame?
- **Cognitive Dissonance**
 - Previous Statements
 - Comparisons to other policies/situations
- **Actions/Statements by Other Members or Competitors**
 - X has cosponsored
 - Y has said Z
- **Polling**
 - Recent public opinion polls & demographics
- **Speak quietly in private settings**
 - If they have to lean in they are paying more attention.

HOW TO IDENTIFY THE APPROPRIATE ASKS, HOW TO MAKE THEM, AND HOW TO FOLLOW-UP ON THEM

What can they actually do?

Asks must be actionable.

- **Not actionable** (for most Members*): Stop weapons going to Israel. Stop funding the genocide. Oppose H.R.9495
- **Actionable:** Cosponsor H.R.3565. Vote for JRD. Make a statement/write/sign a letter. Ask Ranking Member Smith to sign Meeks Letter. Commit to not taking \$ from AIPAC.



Pictured: Members of Congress considering their next vote

HOW TO IDENTIFY THE APPROPRIATE ASKS, HOW TO MAKE THEM, AND HOW TO FOLLOW-UP ON THEM

What are they likely to do?

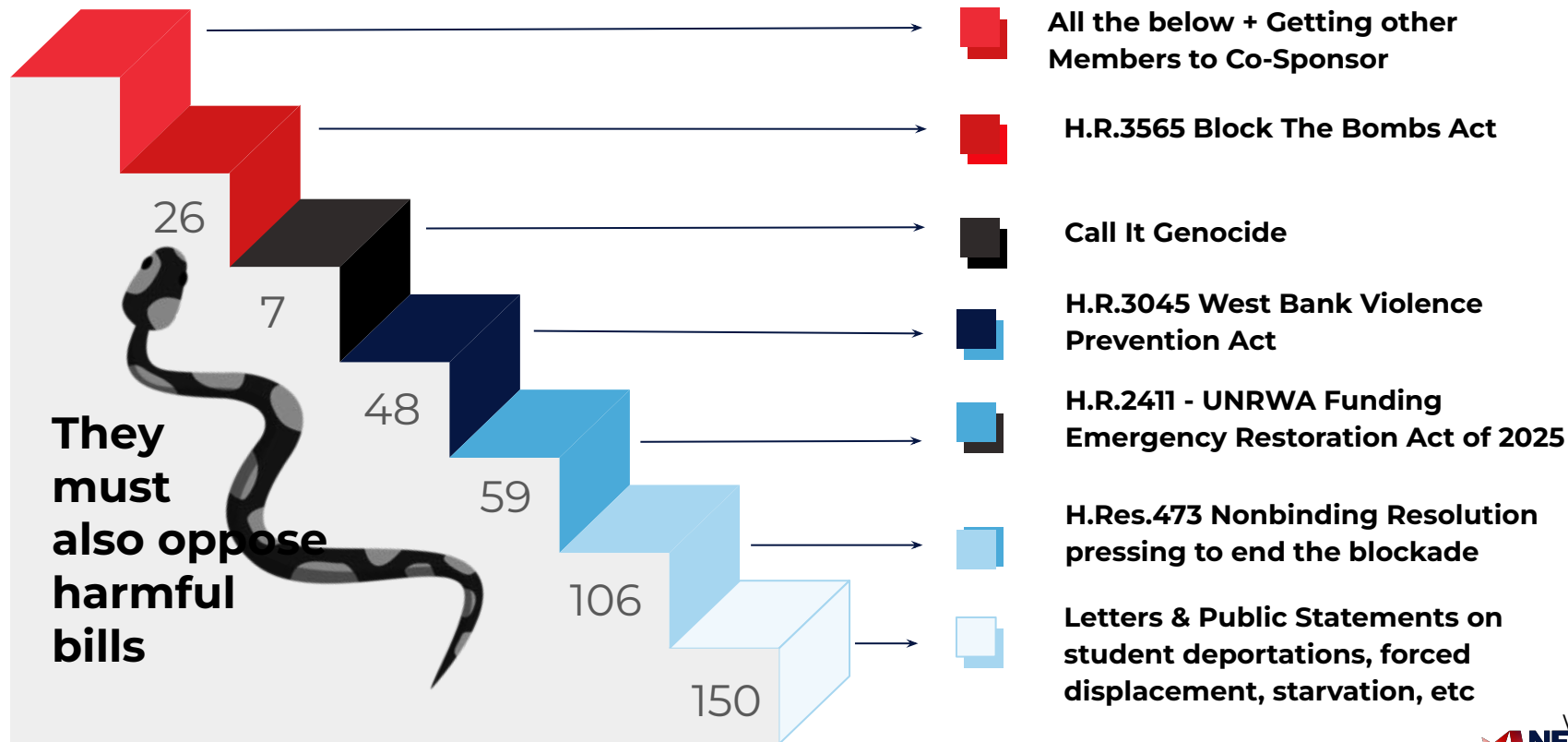
Asks must be reasonable.

- What have they already done, what is an appropriate next step for them?
- Reasonability depends on the Member. If they've not cosponsored a Resolution calling for an end to the blockade of Gaza, they're not likely to cosponsor a Bill blocking arms to Israel as their first step.
- Should be impactful (e.g. not 'make a statement' unless there's a specific outcome of their doing so).

Consider the transactionalism of the relationship - what is the Member asking of you (directly or implicitly)?

- Doing X would secure my vote
- Doing Y would demonstrate your progressive/conservative bona fides
- If you do X I'll be able to introduce you to my community/network/etc
- Z (influential) Member has already done X

WALK YOUR MEMBERS TO THE TOP



Where is your Member?

Tools - A New Policy's Legislative Tracker & Congress.Gov

LEGISLATIVE TRACKER

Introducing our new Legislative Tracking Tool — your one-stop hub to follow bills that relate to US policy regarding Palestine and Israel, and related domestic civil rights issues.

- See what's moving in Congress — from ceasefire resolutions, humanitarian aid bills to arms sales.
- Instantly check where A New Policy stands — whether we support, oppose, or are monitoring the bill.
- Dive into smart, detailed breakdowns from our policy team — no confusion, just clarity.

Stay ahead of the curve on key votes and developments — before they hit the headlines.

A New Policy Legislative Tracker

Tr Number	Tr Title & Linked Analysis	Recommendation	Sponsors	Sponsor's Party	Committee Assignment	Bill Status
H.R. 4473	The U.S.-Israel Bilateral Innovation for Research and Development (BIRD) Health Act of 2025	Oppose	Weber, Randy: TX-14	Republican	Energy and Commerce	Introduced
H.R. 1007	Antisemitism Awareness Act of 2025	Oppose	Lawler, Michael: NY-17	Republican	Judiciary	Introduced
H.R. 1033	COLUMBIA Act of 2025	Oppose	Torres, Ritchie: NY-15	Democrat	Education and the Workforce	Introduced
H.R. 1136	Make Gaza Great Again Act	Oppose	Ogles, Andrew: TN-5	Republican	Foreign Affairs, Judiciary	Introduced
H.R. 1229	United States-Israel Defense Partnership Act of 2025	Oppose	Wilson, Joe: SC-2	Republican	Armed Services, Foreign Affairs	Introduced
H.R. 23	Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act	Oppose	Roy, Chip: TX-21	Republican	Foreign Affairs, Judiciary, Appropriations	Sent to Senate
H.R. 2866	No Visas for Anti-Semitic Students Act	Oppose	Malliotakis, Nicole: NY-11	Republican	Judiciary	Introduced
H.R. 3208	No Official Palestine Entry Act of	Oppose	Raird, James: IN-4	Republican	Foreign Affairs	Introduced

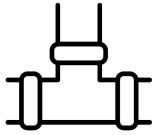
House BillSenate Bill

Thinking beyond the Member - Local Party Politics

STRUCTURE OF LOCAL PARTY POLITICS

LEVEL		PARTY ROLE	EXAMPLE
Precinct		Grassroots organizing, voter turnout	Precinct captains
Ward/District		Candidate endorsements, delegate selection	Ward committees
County		Fundraising primaries, policy platforms	County party chairs, central committee
State		Coordinates with national party, policy alignment	State party conventions delegates

WHY IT MATTERS



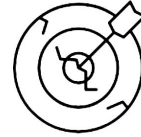
**Pipeline to
National
Power**



**Endorse-
ments**



**Narrative
and Power
Building**



**Strategic
Impact**

Q&A/DISCUSSION

Thank you!

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