

SPRING  
2020

C2C

[www.connectingtocongress.org](http://www.connectingtocongress.org)

## CONNECTING TO CONGRESS

**“How I wish this tool had been available when I served in Congress— it could finally change the tenor of our public debate and at last include citizens into Congressional decision making in a meaningful way.”**

**— Representative  
Deborah Pryce  
[R-OH-15]  
1993-2009**



# C2C

# Connecting to Congress

**Connecting to Congress** is the follow-up to Congress 2.0, a groundbreaking multiyear experiment based on rigorous scientific methodology, which proved that:

- Deliberative Townhall attract every kind of citizen—the citizens who voluntarily participated in these events were actually more representative of the country than the electorate.
- Deliberative Townhalls offer lawmakers a chance to reach beyond “the usual suspects”—in fact, they particularly attracted citizens who tend not to follow politics or who have become disenchanted with the system. Furthermore, after participating, these citizens became more likely to vote and take part in political discussions.
- Deliberative townhalls use non-partisan materials and impartial facilitators, which helped participants move past talking points and towards sounder, more actionable policy choices.
- Participating in these Deliberative Townhalls significantly increased citizens’ trust in government.
- Participants surveyed four months after the Deliberative Townhall were **10%** more likely to vote for the representative that engaged with them in this way.

## Connecting to Congress builds on these findings.

We now have a wider array of and even more sophisticated tools for connecting citizens to their representatives, including:



- Deliberative Townhalls
  - Other deliberative constituent engagement platforms
  - Rapid scientific analysis on engagement gains, changes in constituent opinion
- \* All tools and events will be consistent with ethics rules for US House and Senate.

**Our goal: to improve the quality & quantity of town halls with Members of Congress and constituents.**

