

FIRST BRANCH



TECH, SCIENCE & DATA COHORT

117th CONGRESS

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION DAY

December 9, 2020 | 11 AM ET - 5 PM ET

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About the Event

The virtual “tech, science, and data” (TSD) Orientation Day for Members-elect and their designated staffers brings current and former Members of Congress together with experts to discuss:

Technology: What can new members learn from recent “modernization” efforts and the innovations prompted by Covid-19. What does it take to set up a modern office? What tools are available to increase staff capacity and streamline operations?

Science: What expert resources are available to Members of Congress, and when and how should Members involve them in policymaking and oversight?

Data: What is evidence-based policy, and why is it essential to smart legislation in a 21st-century Congress?

About the First Branch TSD Cohort

The Tech, Science, and Data Cohort was convened in the wake of Covid-19, to bring together innovators from inside and off the Hill focused on Technology, Science, and Data research and resources for Congress. The cohort is a forum for information sharing and collaboration, made possible by support from Democracy Fund and the Hewlett Foundation, and led by POPVOX. Activities include hosting conversations in which members share their work and present opportunities for collaboration; inviting speakers to address the group; and working together to share information with Congress.

Point of Contact: Anne Meeker | TSD Program Director | POPVOX | anne_meeker@popvox.com



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Schedule

11:00 AM – 11:45 AM ET	MAIN STAGE	Starting Out Modern What does it mean to be a 'modern' office? What has driven the House to modernize itself?
11:45 AM – 12:40 PM ET	SESSIONS	Starting and Staying Modern Discussion with Members and Chiefs of Staff on what a modern Congressional office looks like and how to get there.
12:45 PM – 1:05 PM ET	EXPO	Tech for Constituents, Operations, and Policy Meet the vendors providing technology for Constituent engagement, Operations, and Policy.
1:05 PM – 1:25 PM ET	EXPO	Best Practices for the Modern Congressional Office How do I set up a great mail program? The perfect town hall? Insight from innovators in Congressional operations, on and off the Hill.
1:25 PM – 1:45 PM ET	MAIN STAGE	Unknowns to Knowns: Consulting Experts When and how can seeking expert input help the policymaking process?
1:45 PM – 2:15 PM ET	SESSIONS	Adding expert capacity: AMA with House and Senate How have real offices made use of expert resources? AMA with Reps who have found innovative ways to add expert capacity to their offices.
2:15 PM – 2:45 PM ET	SESSIONS	Leveraging Official Resources: CRS, GAO, and more How can Reps use official government resources to add capacity to their operations? Hear from CRS, GAO, and more.
2:45 PM – 3:05 PM ET	EXPO	Off-the-Hill sources of expertise Meet fellowship programs, scientists, and other organizations providing expert input to Members at low or no cost.
3:05 PM – 3:25 PM ET	MAIN STAGE	Evidence-Based Policymaking: what's possible with data? What is evidence-based policymaking and what new opportunities does it open for smart legislation?
3:25 PM – 3:45 PM ET	EXPO	Executive-Branch FOMO: how can Congress catch up? The Executive Branch is outpacing Congress on tech and data; hear what Congress is missing and how it can catch up.
3:45 PM – 4:30 PM ET	SESSIONS	Evidence-Based Policymaking in real life: AMA with Members Hear from Members on what EBP actually looks like in government, from the DATA Act to Data during COVID.
4:30 PM – 4:50 PM ET	EXPO	Data Tools and How to Use Them Data sounds great, but how do I use it? Meet experts and data tools and resources from ESRI to the Census Bureau.
4:50 PM – 5:00 PM ET	STAGE	Closing thoughts and next steps
5:00 PM – 6:45 PM ET	NETWORKING	Networking and virtual happy hour (Staffers will be paired with staffers, members-elect with other members-elect)

TSD Cohort Members

