

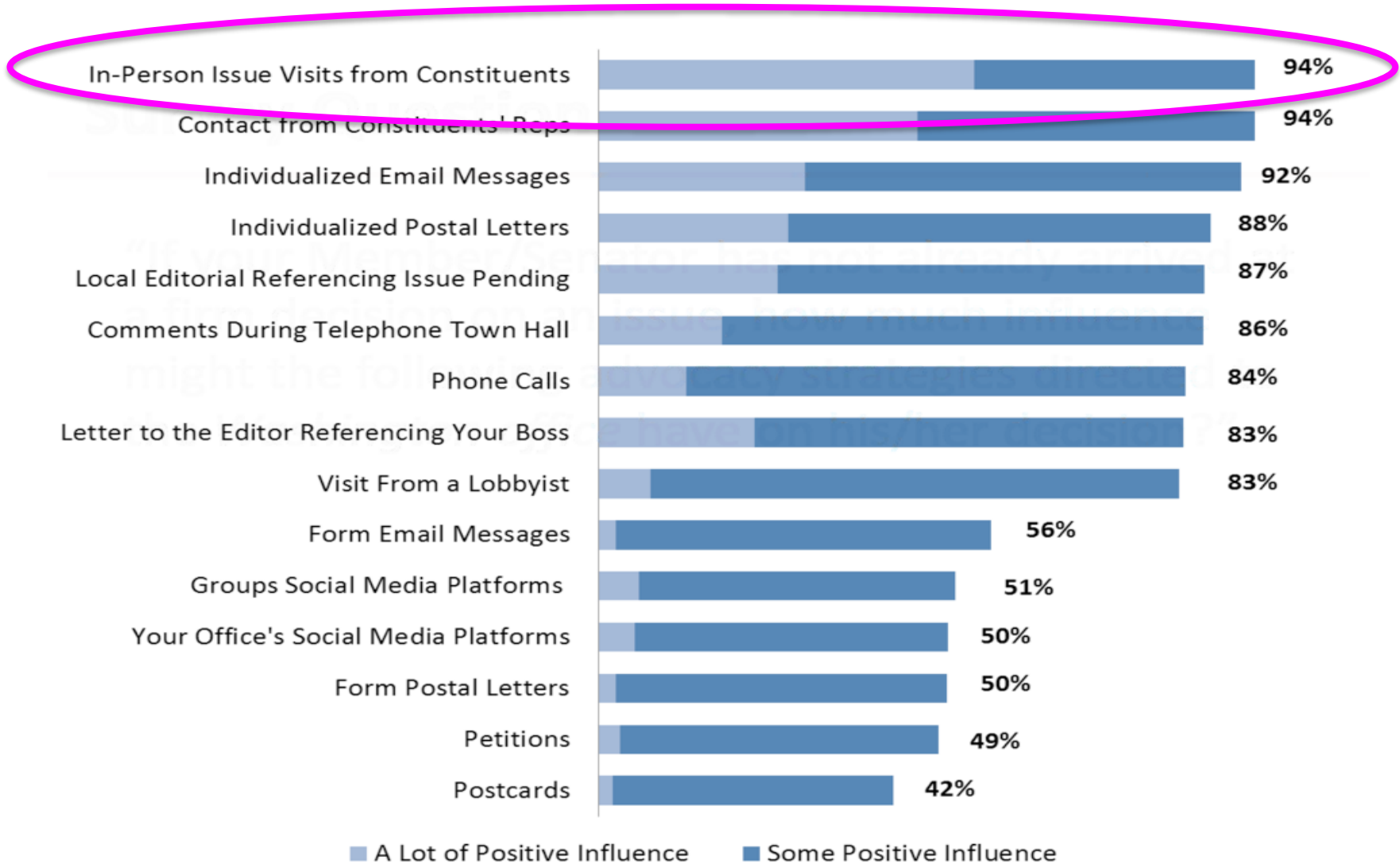
# **RESULTS**

**the power to end poverty**

## **Make Your Voice Heard**

Lobbying Tips for Advocates

# Do What Works!



# Lobby Meeting 101

**R**esearch your topic

**E**xamine the record

**S**et an agenda

**U**nderstand your role

**L**isten

**T**ake good notes

**S**chedule a follow up

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“Don’t throw away your  
shot.”

– Alexander Hamilton (the Broadway version)

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**Engage:** As anti-poverty advocates, we believe no person should go hungry. Congress has an opportunity to improve, rather than weaken, America's most effective anti-hunger program in a bipartisan farm bill.

**Problem:** The House-passed farm bill would take food assistance away from 2 million low-income Americans; we must reject these changes or any measures that cut or make harmful changes to SNAP (formerly Food Stamps).

**Illustrate/Inform:** Census data shows that more than one in \_\_\_\_ residents in our state/your district are living below the poverty line and struggling to make ends meet. SNAP is the cornerstone in the fight against hunger in America – it is timely, targeted, and incredibly effective, including during economic crises or natural disasters. Unfortunately, the House's partisan farm bill takes food assistance away from millions of Americans through harsh time limits, reduced state flexibility, and punitive barriers such as permanently banning people who've been incarcerated from receiving SNAP. Rather than taking away crucial supports from working families as they strive to increase their income, I urge you to protect and strengthen nutrition assistance.

**Call to Action:** Will you tell congressional leaders and Agriculture Committee members you oppose any harmful changes or cuts to SNAP and other anti-poverty programs, and ensure the final farm bill includes the Senate's common sense, bipartisan SNAP policies and protections? Please let us know when you've relayed your concerns to leadership.

**SNAP Laser Talk**

**Engage:** I am deeply concerned about wealth inequality in the United States -- median wealth for white families was 10 times greater than African American family wealth and eight times greater than Hispanic family wealth.

**Problem:** We must reduce wealth inequality and close the racial wealth divide; housing policy can help us do that.

**Illustrate or Inform:** Wealth inequality is a huge problem and many families lack the assets needed to weather financial problems. (Include your own experience/why you care) The Institute on Assets and Social Policy estimates that equalizing home ownership rates would reduce the white/African-American wealth divide by 31 percent. Looking ahead, we look forward to working with Congress to increase access to affordable housing and home ownership, focusing on reducing racial wealth inequality.

**Call for Further Collaboration:** What are your priorities when it comes to increasing access to affordable housing, especially for people of color? For example, what are your thoughts on bipartisan proposals to increase the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) or Housing Choice Mobility Vouchers?

**Housing and Closing the Racial Wealth Divide**

**Engage:** Tax policy is an incredible tool to create opportunity and economic mobility.

**Problem:** Unfortunately, tax policies, in particular tax cuts that primarily benefit those who already have wealth, can also deepen inequality and put health and nutrition assistance at risk by increasing deficits.

**Illustrate or Inform:** Recent tax bills, including the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, are dramatically increasing the federal budget deficit, threatening investments in basic health, nutrition, and education assistance programs. Unpaid-for tax cuts also widen the gap between the wealthy and those struggling to make ends meet. We should restructure current tax policies to reduce inequality, focusing instead on effective policies like expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit for workers without children in the home, boosting the Child Tax Credit for low-income families, and helping low-income families access affordable rental housing or buy a home.

**Call to Action:** Will you oppose any tax legislation that increases the federal budget deficit, and instead focus tax policy on reducing poverty and creating opportunity for low-income Americans.

**Prioritize Tax Policies that Focus on Working Families**



***And remember – HAVE FUN!***