



**Leaders** →  
**Lead**

# 2016 NATIONAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT LOBBY VISIT AGENDA

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## PREPARING FOR YOUR LOBBY MEETINGS

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**FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS WITH REPRESENTATIVES** and their staff are critical to advocacy success. Here is a sample agenda to help you plan and organize your meeting.

Briefly introduce your group, summarize ADL's mission, and highlight examples of activity and impact in your community.

### Thank your Representatives for:

1. Supporting vital U.S. assistance to Israel and affirming strong U.S.–Israel ties.
2. Sustained efforts to prevent the threat of an Iranian nuclear weapon and to hold Iran accountable for its continued aggressions in the region.

### Ask Representatives to:

1. Support legislation to strengthen voting rights protections for all.
2. Oppose legislation that would halt, pause, or defund the U.S. refugee resettlement program.

To wrap up, summarize your understanding of the Representative's positions, thank them for meeting and encourage them to use ADL's website, your Regional Office, and the ADL Washington Office as resources. Share the ADL information packet and refugee poster (available the morning of the lobby visit).

Follow-up with a personal note, and copy ADL Deputy Director of Government Relations, Mindy Reinstein, [mreinstein@adl.org](mailto:mreinstein@adl.org), on your continuing correspondence so that ADL can support your lobbying efforts. Please share feedback from the meeting and flag any follow-up needed by filling out the post-meeting survey.

## LOBBYING 101: TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE MEETINGS

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### Advance Preparation

- Review the Representative's record on the issues.
- Attend the Lobby Workshop on Monday night of the Summit.
- Designate participant speaking roles ahead of time.

### At the Meeting

- Stay focused and be brief. Save time to listen to the Representative's views on each issue.
- Treat staff as you would the Member. They are the Representative's eyes and ears and have their trust.
- Describe local support for the issues and support from coalition allies in your state.
- Request a specific action of support on each issue.

### If the Representative Agrees...

- Thank them for their support.
- Let them know ADL is available as a resource.

### If the Representative Disagrees...

- Hear them out respectfully and agree to stay in touch or provide more information.

### Continue the Conversation through Future Engagement

- Send a thank you note/email, copying ADL. Continue to correspond with your Representative on issues of importance to ADL.
- Follow your Representative on social media.
- Organize other ADL leaders for an in-District lobby visit during Congressional recess.
- Text "Action" to 51555 for ADL alerts on urgent grassroots advocacy efforts.



## RESTORE VOTING RIGHTS

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**THE RIGHT TO VOTE** is the cornerstone of participatory democracy. ADL supported the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965 and each of its extensions as one of the most important and effective pieces of civil rights legislation ever enacted. In 2013, the Supreme Court struck down a key provision of the VRA and eviscerated critical protections against discrimination in voting. The decision ignored extensive congressional findings of discriminatory voting restrictions and asserted its own view that a muscular VRA is no longer needed. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg summarized it well in her dissent: “throwing out preclearance when it has worked and is continuing to work to stop discriminatory changes is like throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not getting wet.”

### Key Points to Raise

- The VRA has **helped to safeguard the right to vote and to eliminate discriminatory barriers** to full civic participation for millions of Americans. Updating the VRA is fundamental to ensuring equal political participation at all levels of government.
- Every day that we fail to advance legislation to restore vigor to the VRA, voters face the prospect of **discriminatory voting procedures and barriers**.
- The VRA has a **long history of strong, bipartisan support**. The most recent reauthorization, in 2006, passed the House of Representatives 390-33 and passed the Senate 98-0.
- **If Congress does not pass the VRAA**, this will be the first presidential election in 50 years without the robust protections of the Voting Rights Act.

As a result, nearly three years since the *Shelby County* Supreme Court decision, a number of states introduced new restrictive voting laws which hamper the right of thousands of U.S. citizens to vote.

ADL is advocating for legislation to update the VRA. The Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015 ([S. 1659/H.R. 2867](#)) aims to restore key provisions struck down in the Supreme Court’s *Shelby County* decision. Congress has both the power and the imperative to restore critical voting rights protections.

[ADL uses amicus \(friend of the court\) briefs, legislative advocacy, and public education](#) in an effort to ensure that all eligible Americans can exercise their fundamental right to vote.



## URGE STRONG LEADERSHIP ON A GLOBAL STAGE

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**TODAY, WE FACE UNPRECEDENTED GLOBAL CHALLENGES**, from the rise of ISIS and other terror groups and the historic refugee crisis to the worrying rise in anti-Semitism worldwide. ADL works to promote robust American leadership to confront these challenges, to advance America's humanitarian interests, and to combat terrorism, arms proliferation, and other unconventional threats.

## SPEAK UP AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM

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**YOU WILL HEAR FIRSTHAND** at the Summit from Jewish leaders in Europe about how verbal and physical attacks on Jews and Jewish property have made Jews feel increasingly uneasy and insecure. Thank your Representative for the consistent leadership in Congress to speak up and to set a standard for resolve and action other world leaders should follow. Share with them ADL's latest "[Scorecard on Hate Crime Response](#)" that covers all of Europe and Eurasia. Encourage your Representative to discuss rising anti-Semitism with foreign leaders when they travel or when they meet them in Washington and to continue to denounce and confront anti-Semitism, as well as racism, xenophobia, homophobia, and all forms of hatred and bigotry.

## ENCOURAGE SUSTAINED VIGILANCE AGAINST IRANIAN AGGRESSION

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**IRAN'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM** poses a grave threat to America and its allies. Congress has been a driving force to ensure that the U.S. does everything in its power to eliminate Iran's ability to pose a nuclear threat. Congress crafted the robust sanctions that everyone agrees brought Iran to the negotiating table. Now, Congress has a role to

play in holding Iran accountable for their continued human rights violations and its support of terrorism and base hatred against Israel and its Jewish people. Indeed, President Hassan Rouhani [recently called](#) for vigilance "against the danger of the Zionist regime" and accused it of "continued massacres."

### Key Points to Raise

- **Express thanks for Congress** consistently pursuing every possible avenue to prevent Iran from building a nuclear weapon.
- Reauthorization of the Iran Sanctions Act, which expires at the end of this year, is an opportunity for Congress to both **ensure that sanctions will be imposed** if Iran violates the nuclear deal and to push back against Iran's violations of international obligations and its ongoing ballistic missile program.



# THANK MEMBERS FOR ENSURING A STRONG U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

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**AMERICA'S SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL** and its close strategic partnership is vital as both countries face common threats like Iran's regional aggression and Hamas and Hezbollah terrorism. The U.S. has backed up its commitment to maintain Israel's qualitative military edge over its adversaries in the region with security assistance and support for joint efforts, such as developing the Iron Dome Missile Defense system, which has saved many Israeli lives from rocket fire. This assistance is provided in the context of a ten-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that expires in 2018.

Discussions are underway to renew and expand the terms of the agreement to meet growing threats to Israel.

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has signaled his intention to seek a new UN Security Council resolution that would dictate the time frame and terms of an Israeli-Palestinian accord. U.S. leadership against these Palestinian Authority efforts can highlight how presenting a one-sided resolution criticizing Israel to the Security Council undermines prospects for Israeli-Palestinian bilateral negotiations.

## Key Points to Raise

- Thank your Representative for encouraging continued strong U.S. leadership in support of a **negotiated two-state solution**.
- America must continue to ensure that Israel has the resources to purchase the weapons and develop the systems needed to **respond decisively to threats** ranging from Hezbollah to a potential nuclear-armed Iran. We look forward to the expansion and extension of the U.S.-Israel MOU.
- Urge support for the President's request of **\$3.1 billion in security assistance to Israel** for Fiscal Year 2017, as well as a **robust overall foreign aid budget**. America's ability to fight global extremism hinges on having the resources to successfully engage in the world, support key allies like Israel, and to help prevent unstable areas from becoming breeding grounds for terror.
- Lawmakers share ADL's concern about the increase in anti-Israel activity reported on U.S. college campuses over this past academic year and often ask what Congress can do. Members should use their bully pulpit to **speak out against the bias of the BDS** (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) movement. ADL's approach to discrediting and countering BDS is to expose and marginalize it and to empower students to respond. Share [ADL's announcement](#) of our new joint initiative with the Reut Institute to combat the delegitimization of Israel and the BDS movement.



# TELL CONGRESS: OPPOSE ROLLBACKS TO AMERICA'S REFUGEE PROGRAM

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## WITH SIXTY MILLION PEOPLE FORCIBLY DISPLACED

from their homes, today the world faces the worst refugee crisis since World War II. Around the world, one in every 122 people is currently a refugee, internally displaced, or seeking asylum. There are refugees fleeing Syria, Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, Nigeria, and dozens of other countries. In the aftermath of the tragic attacks in Paris, Belgium, Jakarta, Egypt and other places, however, too often the call has been to reject refugees. Instead of being met with compassion and open arms, many of today's refugees have encountered closed doors and hateful rhetoric.

## ADL has advocated for fair and humane refugee policy

since its founding and has been a leader in exposing anti-immigrant and anti-refugee hate that has poisoned our nation's debate. ADL also has rich experience and expertise advocating for robust policies to prevent terrorists from gaining access to the United States. Through this prism, ADL strongly supports America's refugee program as an asset to both America's humanitarian and security interests. Congress must resist the politics of fear and reject rollbacks that would undermine those interests.

## Key Points to Raise

- Welcoming refugees embodies our historic commitment to be a haven for the persecuted. The refugees seeking safety are fleeing the same terror and brutality we fear. **Refugee status is the single most difficult way** to enter the United States. Security checks and safeguards in the refugee process are already exceedingly robust.
- ADL agrees with a bipartisan group of former top national security officials who declared: "Refugees are victims, not perpetrators, of terrorism. Categorically refusing to take them only feeds the narrative of ISIS that there is a war between Islam and the West, that Muslims are not welcome in the United States and Europe, and that the ISIS caliphate is their true home."
- The United States **must not succumb** to those who exploit the public's legitimate fear of terror by turning its back on our nation's fundamental commitment to refugee protection and human rights.
- **Urge your Representative to oppose** legislation that undermines the U.S. as a global leader and that would halt, pause, or defund the refugee resettlement program.





### Transportation to and from the Hill

- Bus will pick up participants at 7:15 a.m. at the Mayflower Hotel.
- Buses will drop participants off at Garfield Circle (see map above).
- Buses will pick up participants at Peace Circle (see map above) starting at 11:00 a.m. and will run until 11:45 a.m. The buses will have a placard in the window that says “ADL.”

### Lobbying information

- Attend the workshop on Sunday evening at 9 p.m. to further prepare for your lobby visits.
- If you are unable to make your lobby appointment, for any reason, please stop by the lobby help desk and inform ADL staff.

### Utilize Social Media to amplify your advocacy in real time

- Follow [@ADL\\_National](#) on Twitter.
- Tweet @ your Member.
- Post photos from the Summit to Instagram and Facebook using [#ADLSummit](#).
- Get mobile alerts about Taking Action with ADL: Text **Action** to **51555**.

## ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE

Marvin D. Nathan, *National Chair*

Jonathan A. Greenblatt, *CEO*

Michael Sheetz, *Advocacy and Engagement Chair*

Kenneth Jacobson, *Deputy National Director*

Shari Gersten, *Vice President, Leadership and External Relations*

Abraham H. Foxman, *National Director Emeritus*

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