

Welcome to the summer edition of the AMA's Very Influential Physician (VIP) Insider. Read on for details about these topics:

- August recess is in full swing – tell Congress to fix Medicare Now
- AMPAC Campaign School returns in-person this fall – registration now open
- In-District meetings are best way to educate freshman offices about policy priorities
- Cook Political Report Race Ratings: 2024 House race

August recess is in full swing – tell Congress to Fix Medicare Now!

The Congressional August recess is in full-swing and the stakes could not be higher for Medicare physician payment reform. During the recess, Washington, DC becomes a ghost town as members of Congress flock to their home districts to connect with their constituents and learn about the issues that are important to them and this is where you come in!

[Find out how you can take advantage of the August recess and tell Congress to Fix Medicare Now!](#)

This summer the American Medical Association's top federal priority is reforming Medicare's broken physician payment system, and we need your help!

According to an AMA analysis of Medicare Trustees data, Medicare physician payment has been reduced 26% adjusted for inflation from 2001–2023. The Medicare physician payment system lacks an adequate annual physician payment update, unlike those that apply to other Medicare provider payments. A continuing statutory freeze in annual Medicare physician payments is scheduled to last until 2026, when updates resume at a rate of 0.25% per year indefinitely, well below inflation rates.

That's why it's so urgent that Congress work with the physician community to develop long-term solutions to the systematic problems with the Medicare physician payment system and preserve patient access to quality care.

Recently, the AMA hosted a [webinar](#) featuring Jason Marino, AMA Director of Congressional Affairs, who provided an update on the current state of Medicare legislation and what lies ahead during the 118th Congress and advocacy expert David Lusk of Key Advocacy who provided best practices for engaging legislators in-district including how to prepare for in-district legislative meetings, host Members of Congress at site visits, and interacting with elected officials online.

To make these interactions with your legislators as impactful as possible, the AMA has developed an online [August recess resources site](#) that is your one-stop-shop for toolkits,

legislative calls to action, issue briefs and information on scheduling and preparing for legislative meetings and other in-district opportunities.

Please join us this August recess and let Congress know that it's time to Fix Medicare Now - everyone agrees that the Medicare physician payment system is broken – [let's do something about it!](#)

AMPAC Campaign School returns in-person this fall – registration now open!

AMPAC is excited to announce that the [2023 Campaign School](#) will be returning in-person October 12–15 at the AMA offices in Washington, DC!

Running an effective campaign can be the difference between winning and losing a race. That's why the Campaign School is designed to give you the skills and strategic approach you will need out on the campaign trail. Our team of political experts will teach you everything you need to know to run a successful campaign. Under the direction of our lead trainers, participants will be broken into campaign staff teams to run a simulated congressional campaign using what they've learned during group sessions on strategy, vote targeting, social media, advertising and more.

Attendees include physicians, spouses of physicians, residents and medical students and state medical society staff interested in becoming more involved in politics. Participants range from those attracted to grassroots efforts to those considering becoming a candidate for public office. No matter where you are in the process, you will develop a new understanding of how campaigns are run. As a graduate of the AMPAC program, candidates will rely on you to give them advice on strategy, message, and campaign plans.

Please note the following:

- Registration fee is \$350 for AMA Member/\$1000 for non-AMA members. This fee is waived for AMA residents and students; however, space is limited and the AMPAC Board will review and select four participants from the pool of qualified resident and student applicants.
- Faculty, materials, and all meals during the meeting are covered by the AMA. Participants are responsible for their registration fee, travel to/from Washington, DC and hotel accommodations (AMPAC staff will provide you with a list of nearby hotels within walking distance of the AMA offices).

[Registration for the 2023 Campaign School is now OPEN.](#) Space is limited and the deadline to register is September 18 (or sooner if maximum capacity is reached).

For more information contact: politicaleducation@ama-assn.org

In-District meetings are best way to educate freshman offices about policy priorities

Our partners at The Congressional Management Foundation (CMF) wanted to identify the most effective tactics that advocacy groups should use to educate new Members of Congress about the group's policy priorities. To find out, we surveyed senior staff working for new

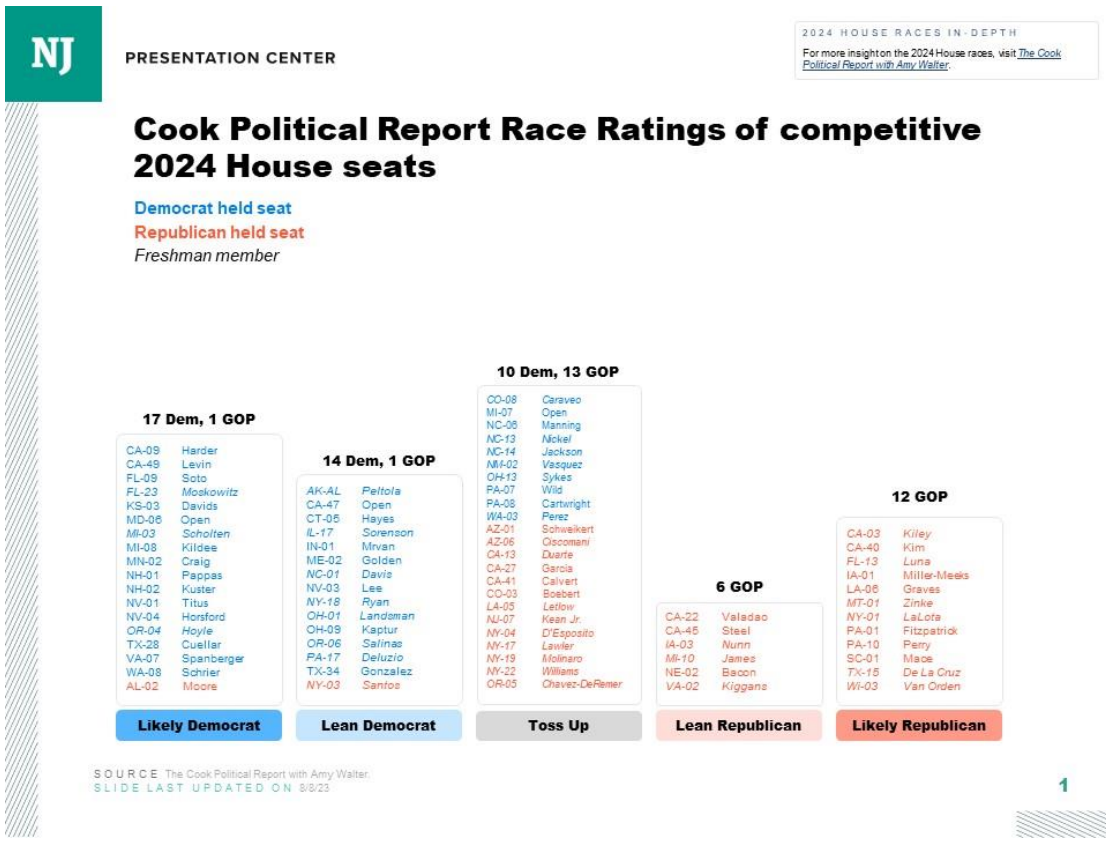
House freshmen offices. CMF asked staff to indicate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with several statements, including the following:

"Advocacy groups should have representatives from our district/state meet new Members of Congress to educate new Members about their groups' policy priorities when the Member is home in the district/state."

We learned: A clear majority (71%) of staff of new Members of Congress agree that the most effective way for groups to inform them about their policy priorities is through in-district meetings with groups' representatives. Associations, nonprofits, and companies invest a great deal of resources to engage with and educate new Members of Congress as soon as possible. The most effective way for advocacy organizations to do that is to have their supporters meet their new Members while they are home in their districts and states.

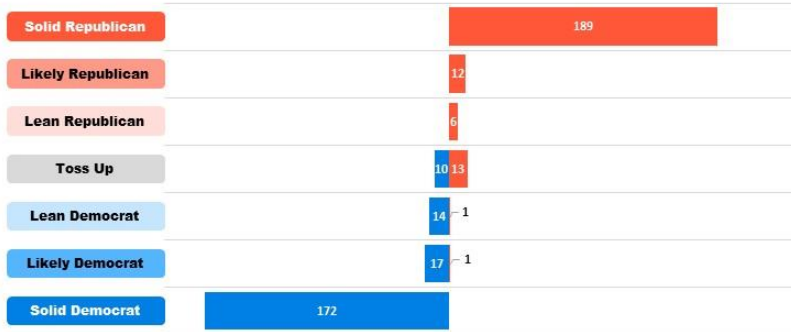
Source: *Partnership for a More Perfect Union*, Copyright Congressional Management Foundation, <http://CongressFoundation.org>. Used with permission.

Cook Political Report Race Ratings: 2024 House races
 Slides courtesy of [National Journal](#) and [Cook Political Report](#)



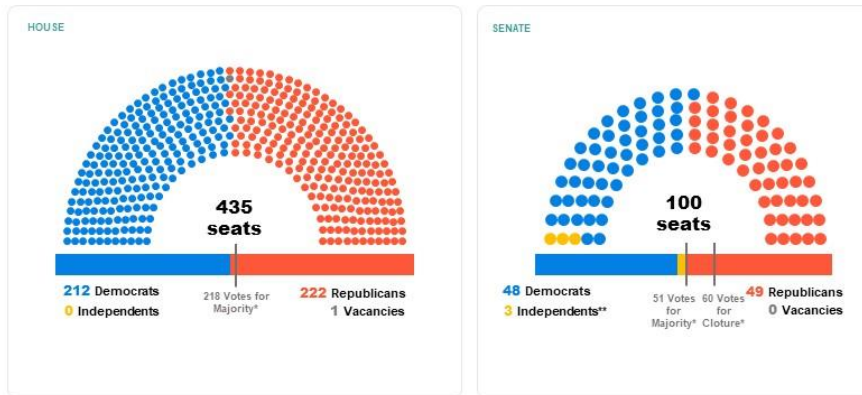
Cook Political Report 2024 House race ratings

As of August 8, 2023, ratings have been released for all 435 House districts.



SOURCE: The Cook Political Report with Amy Walter.
SLIDE LAST UPDATED ON 8/8/23

Composition of the 118th Congress



*If no vacancies and all members vote
**Sens. Sanders (VT) and King (ME) caucus with the Democrats; Sen. Sinema (AZ) caucuses with neither party but receives committee assignments from Democrats
SOURCE: US Senate, US House Press Gallery
SLIDE LAST UPDATED ON 8/12/23

Advocacy calendar

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4 Labor Day	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Legend:

- AMA Events
- Senate in Session
- House in Session
- Both Chambers in Session
- State Work Periods
- District Work Periods
- Both Work Periods

Be sure to follow all the AMA's Physician Grassroots Network social media accounts for all the latest news on physician advocacy and what you can do to make sure your voice is heard on Capitol Hill.



[AMA Advocacy](#)



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