



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

- Join us on July 27 for our Fix Medicare Now August recess webinar
- AMPAC Campaign School returns in-person this fall – registration now open!
- How long should advocates wait before following up?
- Redrawing the House battlefield after SCOTUS redistricting decisions

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### **Join us on July 27 for our Fix Medicare Now August recess webinar**

The American Medical Association's top federal priority this summer is reforming [Medicare's broken physician payment system](#). Physician advocates can do their part by engaging with their Members of Congress during the upcoming congressional August recess period. And we are here to help!

[Join us July 27 at 8 pm ET for our "Fix Medicare Now August Recess Campaign" webinar.](#)

During this webinar, Jason Marino, AMA Director of Congressional Affairs, will provide an update on the current state of Medicare legislation and what lies ahead during the 118th Congress. You will also learn about resources developed by the AMA to help physician advocates influence legislation throughout the Congressional August recess and beyond.

Advocacy expert David Lusk of Key Advocacy will join us to discuss advocacy best practices for engaging legislators in-district and via social media. David will walk through how to prepare for in-district legislative meetings, host Members of Congress at site visits, and discuss best practices for interacting and conversing with elected officials online.

[Register now!](#) Space is limited, so please be sure to register early.

### **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](mailto:politicaleducation@ama-assn.org)

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### **How Long Should Advocates Wait Before Following Up?**

Research conducted by The Congressional Management Foundation finds that [85% of congressional staffers think that advocates could do a better job following up after their meetings](#). This includes 46% who indicated that constituents don't follow up in a timely manner. Therefore, CMF wanted to know how much time constituents should wait after meeting with Members of Congress or their staff before following up to ask for an update. To find out, CMF asked legislative assistants and legislative directors the following question:

*"If you are not able to provide a firm answer to their (constituents') request/ask, how long should someone wait before they contact you for an update?"*

**We learned:** Nearly two-thirds (66%) of the congressional staff who responded to the survey said that constituents should wait at least one week before following up after a meeting for an update on their Member of Congress' policy decision. Only 14% responded, "at least three days," and just 21% answered, "at least one month."

Clearly, less than one week is too soon to follow up, unless the circumstances are time-limited. Otherwise, advocates should follow up within one to four weeks after meetings with Congress to ask about their Members' policy decisions on the issues discussed during meetings.

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

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## **Redrawing the House battlefield after SCOTUS redistricting decisions**

By [James A. Downs from National Journal](#)

With the dust settled on three major Supreme Court redistricting cases, all eyes now turn to the House battlefield and its coming shake-up before the 2024 elections.

In the last three weeks alone, the Supreme Court affirmed Voting Rights Act protections in *Allen v. Milligan*, lifted a lower-court stay on a Louisiana congressional-map appeal, and rejected the so-called "independent state legislature" theory. On their own, these rulings would have a tremendous impact on deciding control of the House next year. But, taken together, they could reverberate for years to come.

The focus now returns to the districts, where Democrats need to flip just five seats to retake the majority.

In Alabama, the Supreme Court ruled that the state's congressional map violated the Voting Rights Act and must be redrawn, in a victory for civil rights and minority groups. Gov. Kay Ivey called a special session for July 17 to add a Black-opportunity district. The map must be finalized by July 21.

The redistricting case in Louisiana now heads back to a lower court, where state Republicans were appealing a federal judge's ruling that the state's map was unconstitutional and likely violated the Voting Rights Act. Based on the decision in Alabama, Louisiana will likely have to add a second Black-opportunity district.

In *Moore v. Harper*, the Court rejected the independent-state-legislature theory, a fringe theory positing that legislatures have free rein over federal electoral law—from redistricting to voting and ballot laws. The ruling ensures state legislatures are subject to judicial review.

The ruling won't stop the North Carolina General Assembly—which filed the *Moore* suit—from enacting new congressional maps. The new conservative-leaning state Supreme Court overturned the state case this year after the previously liberal-leaning court had enacted its own map for the 2022 cycle.

North Carolina House Speaker Tim Moore said last week that the Assembly will likely redraw maps in September or October. The new map could net Republicans up to four seats. With likely Democratic-leaning seats coming in Alabama, Louisiana, and potentially Georgia, every seat matters.

Despite the string of rulings breaking in Democrats' favor, Republican operatives like their chances to hold the House.

"We picked up seats the last two cycles because we had outstanding candidates who are fighting for what voters actually want—lower prices, secure borders, and safe communities," said Congressional Leadership Fund communications director Courtney Parella. "We continue to be on offense this cycle because voters have no interest in Democrats' wildly out-of-touch agenda and policies that have left American families behind."

One Republican strategist, who asked to talk on background in order to speak candidly, said the House battlefield was still in their favor, citing gains of up to seven seats from mid-cycle redistricting in North Carolina and Ohio. The strategist also said the new seats in Alabama

and Louisiana won't be Democratic gimmes.

But former Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee executive director Tim Persico disagreed, saying the Court rulings were an "unqualified win for Democrats, without question." He said that while new seats as a result of the Allen ruling won't create any safe Democratic seats, a slew of competitive pickup opportunities should form as a result of similar cases in South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, and potentially Arkansas and Texas.

That puts Democrats in a good position to take back the House, Persico said.

And Democratic members in North Carolina and Ohio remain bullish about leading their party into the majority.

Rep. Wiley Nickel, one of four Democratic members of Congress likely to be targeted by the new North Carolina maps, admitted that the "maps are going to be bad for Democrats" in the state, but added that "the question is just how greedy the Republicans get."

Nickel won election last year to a newly competitive seat in the Raleigh suburbs. It's one of the fastest-growing districts in the country, and Nickel said it has a "good outlook on the maps, because it's just trending the right way for Democrats." He defeated his Republican opponent by 3 points. The former state senator said he is "gearing up for a tough fight" and is "very optimistic," despite the uncertainty over the lines.

Democratic Rep. Greg Landsman of Ohio could also face an uphill reelection bid. The freshman lawmaker celebrated the Moore v. Harper ruling and told National Journal in a statement that "constitutional districts should be all the rave now."

Ohio operated under unconstitutional maps for the midterms, but a new right-wing majority on the state Supreme Court is expected to rule in favor of Republicans when the General Assembly convenes to consider the maps this summer.

Ohio Republicans brought a similar case to the one in North Carolina before the U.S. Supreme Court. The high court sent the case back to the Ohio Supreme Court on Friday after the Moore v. Harper ruling.

When the Ohio Supreme Court struck down the congressional map, it ruled Landsman's Cincinnati-based district violated compactness standards. He won by almost 6 points in the blue-leaning seat.

Landsman told National Journal last month that he thinks "there's a lot of interest within the entire delegation—both Republicans and Democrats—to just leave the maps alone."

State Senate President Matt Huffman said last week that the redistricting commission may draw maps by the end of September, or it could ask the state Supreme Court to reconsider its decision in hopes of using the same lines for 2024.

Whether Landsman's district is affected by the redraw, he said he's confident about his reelection bid: "You do the actual job really, really well, and then the politics piece becomes infinitely easier."

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Advocacy calendar

# AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	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	31		

**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.



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[AMA Advocacy](#)



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