

#99 County Meetings

Just the *Facts*

- Senator Grassley set the standard for holding constituent Q&As in each of Iowa's 99 counties. His standard of a Q&A with constituents on factory floors, with service organizations, in town halls, at businesses and hospitals in every county every year, which he set when he was first elected to the Senate, is the one others strive to reach.
- Senator Grassley's 99 county meetings happen every year, regardless of whether there's an election.
- These Grassley meetings have always been official business, not campaign. The audience of town hall attendees, factory workers, service club members, or school kids is spontaneous and unstructured. He answers questions from people of all stripes as their United States Senator.
- Every meeting entails a Q&A on any subject. The Q&A with employees is a requirement set by Senator Grassley before he accepts an invitation as part of his 99 county meetings. He makes a point at the beginning of each meeting to note that the audience sets the agenda. He answers any question saying that personal, policy or political questions are all okay. Nothing is off-limits.
- The point of the mix of formats is to listen to a cross-section of the Iowa population. Iowans working on a factory floor can't attend a town meeting in the middle of the day without taking vacation. Students can't take off from school. They simply wouldn't have the opportunity to ask questions of their United States Senator. That's why Senator Grassley makes a point to go to them.
- For example, Senator Grassley held a Harrison County public town meeting in Woodbine in 2014 where 21 people attended. He held a Harrison County Q&A with employees at Carry-On Trailer in Missouri Valley in 2015 where he had the opportunity to listen to and take questions from more than 100 people. In February 2015, Senator Grassley held a Mitchell County Q&A at Fox River Mills in Osage with 150 people. In January 2016 he held a Mitchell County town meeting in Osage with 43 people. This mix is valuable for Iowans, and for Senator Grassley to better understand the concerns and questions of ALL Iowans.
- By holding only public town hall meetings at the county courthouse or other similar venue, Iowans who can't attend one of those particular meetings are disenfranchised. The goal is to reach a diverse set of Iowans. Not just those who have the time to attend a meeting at the county courthouse in the middle of the day.
- The term the "Full Grassley" was coined by the Des Moines Register's Jason Noble. The "Full Grassley," was based on the same mix of meetings that Senator Grassley has done for years, which is a mix of open town hall meetings, Q&As at schools, businesses, factories, service clubs, hospitals.
- Members of Progress Iowa, the political organization leading this brazen attack, have been to nearly every one of Senator Grassley's town hall meetings. Senator Grassley has graciously answered their questions on anything from the Zika virus, corporate transparency and the Supreme Court.