

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION

# ADVOCACY WEEK



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# 2026 Advocacy Week Outlook

Welcome to National Historic Preservation Advocacy Week 2026! We gather in Washington, DC, at a pivotal moment — one marked by rapid federal change and heightened uncertainty — to advocate for the future of historic preservation. Together, we have the opportunity to remind Congress that historic places are the heart of our communities, the foundation of our shared national story, and funding for the programs and professionals that sustain this work remains essential.

Alongside grassroots advocates from across the country, you will hear from preservation leaders, policy experts, and Congressional champions who will illuminate the current challenges and opportunities facing our field. Your meetings on Capitol Hill are especially powerful: they connect federal decision-makers with the real, tangible impacts of preservation in their communities back home. While national organizations continue to advance preservation priorities in Washington, your voice — grounded in local experience — remains indispensable.

The past year has brought sweeping federal actions and spurred a fast-moving policy environment, requiring members of Congress to balance preservation alongside many competing priorities. This makes your engagement more important than ever. Congressional offices must continue to hear why historic preservation matters, why telling the American story through place is vital, and why funding federal programs and professionals in the field is critical to our nation's cultural and economic vitality.

As we look ahead to the commemoration of America's Semiquincentennial in July 2026, this moment offers a powerful opportunity to strengthen existing relationships with your Congressmembers and to build new ones. Together, we can help ensure that historic preservation continues to support thriving communities — by recognizing, protecting, and investing in the places that tell America's full and evolving story.

*Showing up is how we protect what matters*



# Strategies for Hill Visits

## Know Your Member

- Research your [Congressional Members](#) biography, committee assignments & policy priorities.
- You may find that someone helped establish a National Historic Landmark, provided assistance with a local tax credit project, or sought funding for a specific preservation project. In some cases, you'll be talking to someone who has no track record with historic preservation at all - and that's OK!
- Share your knowledge of preservation, the district, and how your work relates to a given program.
- Focus on building a 2-way dialogue to share information & problem solve the issues at hand in a bipartisan manner. Offer to serve as a resource.
- Create an opportunity for more dialogue. Invite the member and/or staff to visit a historic site or historic tax credit project, or upcoming event in their district.

## Be Prepared

- State coordinators should 1) prepare and print state- and district-specific one pagers; and 2) print copies of the official advocacy week one-pagers to leave behind at each meeting
- Talk with other advocates in your state: ask questions and exchange ideas ahead of your meetings
- Familiarize yourself with [navigating Capitol Hill](#)
- Wear business attire and comfortable shoes
- Bring business cards
- At the conclusion of the meeting, ask for a picture
- Use hashtag #PreservationOnTheHill

## Hill Report Forms



## Digital Materials



# 250 for 250



## PERMITTING WITH PURPOSE

**ASK:** Support Consultation and Effective Federal Reviews:

- Fund SHPOs/THPOs, ACHP, and NPS at levels that reflect workloads
- Invest in technology to improve efficiency and transparency
- Promote the use of programmatic agreements to streamline review
- Ensure professionally qualified staff at federal agencies
- Follow existing laws governing project review

**TALK TO:** Members of Congress & staff, especially members of these committees:

House:

- [Natural Resources](#)
- [Transportation & Infrastructure](#)
- [Energy & Commerce](#)
- [Judiciary](#)

Senate:

- [Energy and Natural Resources](#), especially those on the Federal Lands & Public Lands subcommittees
- [Environment & Public Works](#)
- [Commerce, Science, & Transportation](#)
- [Judiciary](#)

**A fully-funded HPF is essential to empower SHPOs and THPOs to meet federal mandates and protect—not lose—America’s historic places**

## HISTORIC TAX CREDIT

**ASK:** Cosponsor HTC-GO (H.R. 2941/S.1459)

- Allow the credit to be claimed in the year a building is placed in service, like other federal tax credits
- Restore certainty and predictability for investors and lenders
- Increase the credit’s effectiveness for small, rural, and affordable housing projects

**TALK TO:** Members of Congress and staff, specifically members of the [House Ways & Means Committee](#) and [Senate Finance Committee](#)

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

**ASK #1:** Support appropriation of \$250 million for the HPF for FY 2027

- \$70 million for SHPOs
- \$34 million for THPOs
- \$25 million for Preservation Technology Initiative
- \$13 million for HBCUs
- \$108 million for competitive grant programs: African American Civil Rights, Save America’s Treasures, Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization, Semiquincentennial Commemoration, History of Equal Rights, and Underrepresented Communities

**TALK TO:** Members of Congress & staff of the [House](#) & [Senate Appropriations Committees](#), especially the Interior Subcommittee

- *Appropriators:* Thank/encourage their support of HPF & remind them that more funding is needed to carry out the essential programs funded by HPF
- *Non-Appropriators:* Ask them to voice support of the HPF request to the Chairman & Ranking Member of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee

**ASK #2:** Cosponsor H.R. 3418 and support long-term reauthorization of the HPF

- Champion the long-term reauthorization of the HPF at \$250 million. The bipartisan HPF Reauthorization Act (H.R. 3418) would reauthorize the HPF for 10 years and increase the authorized level to \$250 million annually
- Support introduction of a companion Senate bill that will reauthorize the HPF at \$250 million
- Include HPF reauthorization in future legislative vehicles

**TALK TO:** Members of Congress & staff of the [House Natural Resources](#) and [Senate Energy & Natural Resources](#) Committees

## LEAD AMERICA’S 250TH

**ASK:** Join the Historic Preservation Caucus (or thank them for being a [member](#)); invite your Congressman to visit a historic site, tax credit project, or a state Semiquincentennial [event](#)

**TALK TO:** Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate (and their staff)