

# Putting the Green in Grassroots Engaging the Community at Large



# **Getting Your Voice Heard at Home:**

## ***How to Influence Elected Officials***

Bike Summit

March 4, 2008

Presenter: Brad Fitch

# A Bill of Rights

## Article I

**C**ongress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

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by law.

### Article IV

**T**he right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

### Article V

**N**o person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any Criminal Case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty,

**I**n suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

### Article VIII

**E**xcessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

### Article IX

**T**he enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

### Article X

**T**he powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

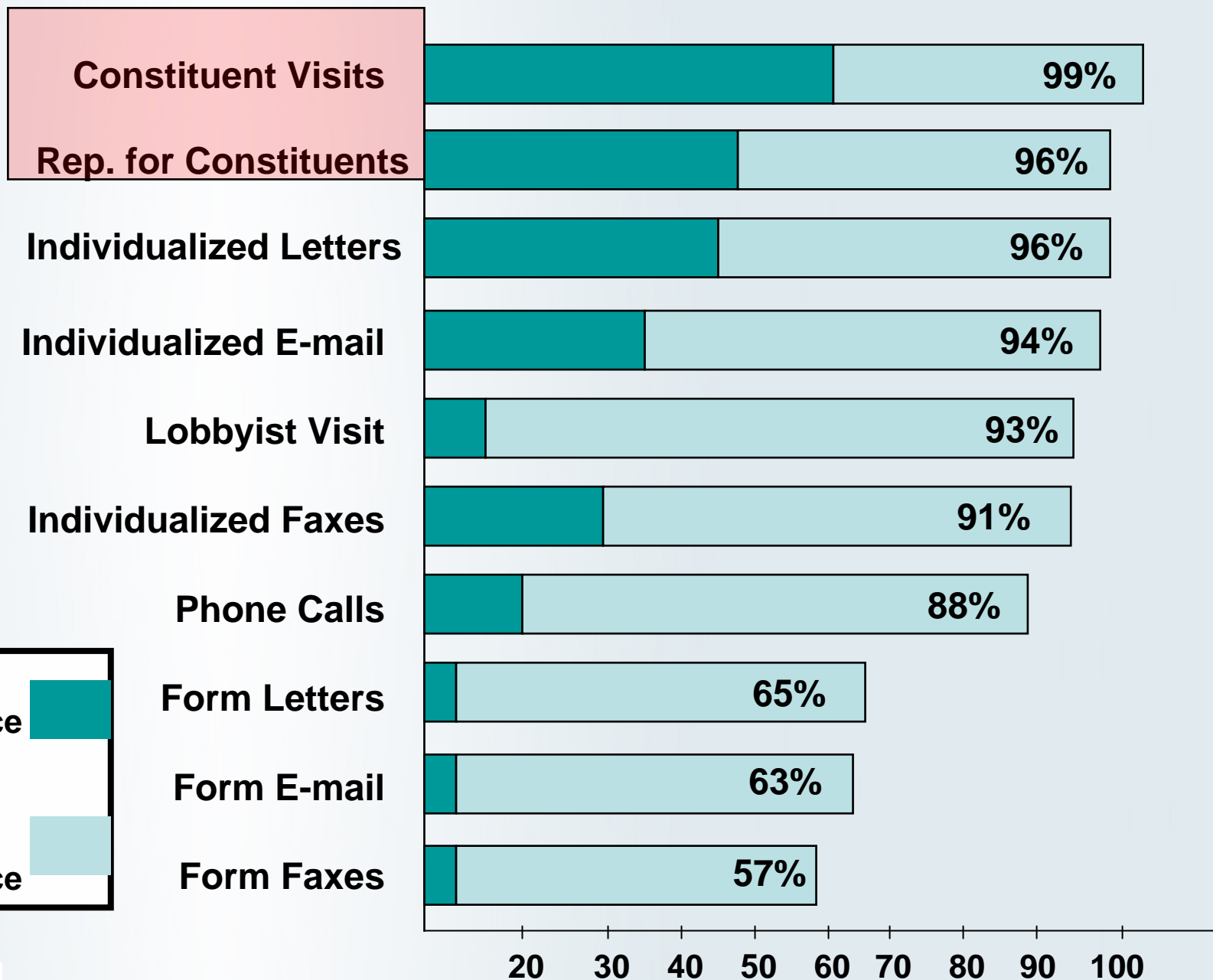


*“The best ideas I get for legislation come from town hall meetings.”*

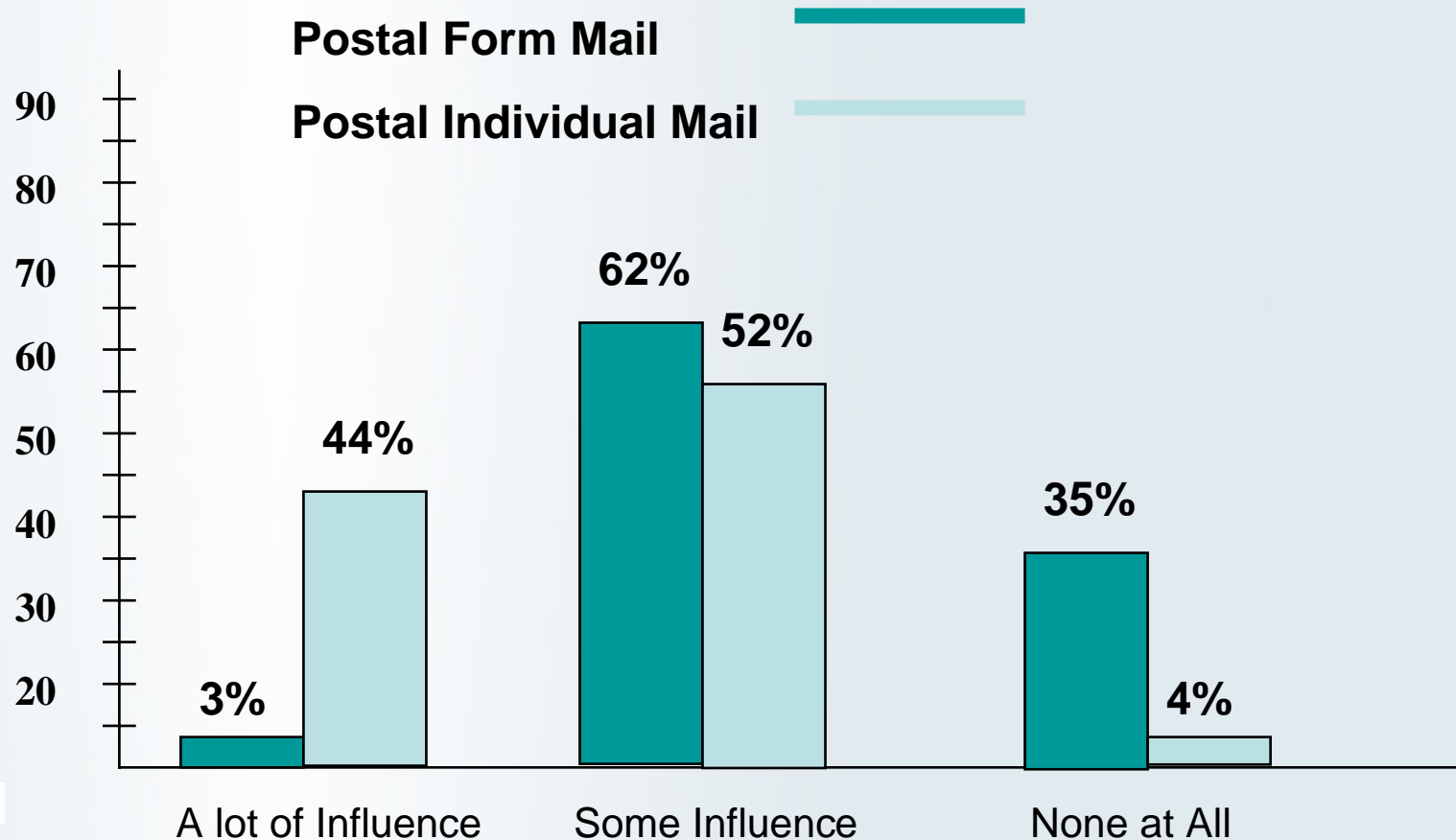
*- House Democrat, Subcommittee Chair*

**"If your Member/Senator has not already arrived at a firm decision on an issue, how much influence might the following advocacy strategies directed to the Washington office have on his/her decision?"**

Source: Congressional Management Foundation



# Individual versus Form Mail



# 10 Strategies for Using Town Hall Meetings

1. Train Your Supporters to be Prepared
2. Tell a Personal Story
3. Use Numbers
4. Encourage Respectful Conduct
5. Get Supporters to Go in Groups

# 10 Strategies for Using Town Hall Meetings

6. Encourage Conversations with Staff
7. Provide Paper
8. Facilitate Follow-up
9. Target Multiple Meetings
10. Demonstrate You're Not Going Away

# Sherrington's Law



- ← E-mail campaign
- ← Phone calls from VIPs
- ← Constituent visit
- ← Town Hall Meeting

***“We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate.”***

- Thomas Jefferson



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