



Editorial: Mack should meet us more

Written by

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Rep. Connie Mack, R-Fort Myers, defied audience expectations by going against script for his town hall meeting Monday and taking questions directly from the people.

This is what a town hall meeting is about - where an elected official engages the people spontaneously.

Mack answered questions and proselytized about his views on reducing the size of government, defunding some federal programs and repealing laws that he considers a hindrance to freedom.

Many people applauded him, others stayed silent, but it's a win for democracy that hundreds of people of diverse politics were willing to come out see their congressman.

The formal agenda gave the impression that Mack would give some remarks followed by comments by FGCU economics professor Brad Hobbs and Bob Levy, chairman of the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank.

Some audience members grumbled because they thought their questions would not be taken from the floor. Whether it was

a misunderstanding or whether Mack changed his mind, it was a welcome.

It's easy to be cynical of this meeting, given that Mack is rumored to be running for the U.S. Senate. He has hired key campaign staff, but he has made no announcement.

Instead, we see this as an opportunity to encourage him to do more of these town hall meetings and hear from his constituents.

Mack has been dogged for years by the accusation that he doesn't live in or spend enough time in his district.

Yet, per his calendar, over the last three months, Mack spent 80 percent of his time either in Washington, where he works, or in Southwest Florida, where he lives.

Let's put this rumor to rest. Instead, tell him what you want him to do in Congress.

Call Rep. Connie Mack at 202-225-2536 or email his office through his website at

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