

GET INVOLVED: ATTEND A CANDIDATE FORUM

Candidate forums provide an opportunity to engage with individuals running for office and ask important questions about their platforms and positions. Events hosted by a variety of organizations, such as civic groups and media outlets, provide these opportunities.

The format can vary, but they generally allow time for participants from the audience to ask questions of the candidates. Some events ask for questions to be submitted ahead of time and sometimes questions can be asked right there on the spot. Candidate forums are an important way for you to get your issue on the agenda by asking questions about how the candidate plans to take action if elected.

Below are tips to help you find candidate forums and ask important questions of candidates in your area.

Find a forum. Check with groups like local media outlets, civic organizations, and chambers of commerce that regularly organize these events and follow them on social media or sign up for their email lists to receive announcements.

Know the format. Forums may be public or private, may accept questions only in advance, and may follow other specific guidelines. Check on the rules before you plan to attend so you know what to expect.

Ask your question and make it personal. Keep your questions direct and to the point, giving only as much information as is necessary. Make your question more impactful by sharing why it is personal to you and your community.

