

SPEAKING UP:

Ask a question at a candidate forum

Asking a question at a candidate forum can be a powerful way to show candidates that you care about the Great Lakes and clean water, and get candidates on the record on these issues.

The formats can vary, but candidate forums 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 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 candidate 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 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.



ARE YOU ORGANIZING A CANDIDATE FORUM?

Are you organizing a nonpartisan candidate forum that will focus on environmental issues or water infrastructure? If so, please let us know. Email us at alliance@greatlakes.org.