

NONPARTISAN COLLABORATION WITH CANDIDATES

HOST OR CO-SPONSOR A CANDIDATE FORUM

Candidate forums are a powerful way to connect voters with those running for public office. For voter engagement organizations like ours, hosting these forums gives the public a chance to hear directly from candidates, raises civic awareness, and encourages informed participation.

As a 501(c)(3) voter registration organization, you cannot endorse or oppose political candidates, but you can still engage in nonpartisan efforts to elevate your issues, such as educating candidates about voter access, sharing nonpartisan policy ideas, building relationships with future elected officials, and encouraging all campaigns to prioritize civic participation—allowing you to influence public dialogue and future policy decisions while remaining fully compliant with IRS guidelines.

INVITE CANDIDATES TO ATTEND EVENTS

Another way to engage candidates is by inviting them to attend your existing events. This not only raises awareness of your organization's mission but also connects candidates directly with your community.

When candidates engage directly with your community, it creates meaningful opportunities for voters to ask questions, hear policy positions firsthand, and make informed decisions at the ballot box.

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ATTEND CANDIDATE EVENTS

Attending candidate events is a valuable way to engage in the electoral process while gathering information to share with your community. If you represent your organization, it is essential to maintain a strictly nonpartisan approach.

This means asking the same or substantially similar questions of all candidates in a race, ensuring fairness and neutrality in every interaction.

CONDUCT A CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate questionnaires are an effective, nonpartisan way to communicate the issues that matter most to your organization and the communities you serve. By inviting all candidates in a given race to respond to a standardized set of questions, you not only help inform voters but also encourage transparency and accountability.

Once responses are received, share them broadly through your website, email outreach, and social media.

SHARE YOUR POLICY IDEAS

Sharing your nonpartisan research and policy recommendations equally with all candidates supports informed campaigning and advances your organization's mission in a transparent, fair way.

