



MY VOTE. OUR HEALTH.

Planning a Women's Health Candidate Event

A candidate forum or candidates night can create a focused opportunity to make women's health part of the public policy conversation.

Define the Purpose

Keep the event nonpartisan and focused on helping voters understand where candidates stand on women's health issues. Decide whether the event will include federal, state, local candidates, or a combination.

Invite Candidates

Invite all candidates running for the office or offices being discussed. Provide the same information, format, and participation expectations to each campaign. Give candidates sufficient notice and a clear deadline to respond.

Develop the Questions

Choose a manageable number of topics and ask each candidate the same core questions.

Women's health research funding

Inclusion and analysis of women in clinical studies

FDA pathways and women's health innovation

Reimbursement parity

Access to screening, diagnosis, and treatment

Provider education

Condition-specific priorities such as breast cancer, endometriosis, or menopause

Use broad questions first, then allow brief follow-up questions where appropriate.

Build Community Partnerships

Consider partnering with healthcare and patient organizations, professional associations, universities and research institutions, community organizations, women's leadership groups, and local business or civic organizations. Partners can help broaden attendance, bring expertise, and increase visibility.

Invite the Public and Media

Promote the event early and explain why women's health matters as a policy issue. Invite local journalists and media outlets. Consider livestreaming or recording the event if appropriate.

Keep the Format Fair

Use the same time limits and core questions for each candidate. Choose a neutral moderator. Avoid endorsements or commentary during the event. Make clear that the purpose is to provide information and elevate women's health as a policy issue.

After the Event

Share candidate responses accurately and without editing their meaning. Thank candidates, partners, and attendees. Continue the conversation by encouraging voters to review candidate records and follow future policy actions.



Women's Health Advocates Toolkit · Women's Health Advocates Policy Pillars

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