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From: David Gunn <dgunn@vlct.org>
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To: Info
Subject: Candidate Forum Toolkit
Attachments: 2018 candidate forum toolkit.docx

Ask your candidates to a forum on your local government priorities!

Tis the season for campaign promises! Candidates are running now to work on your behalf during the next two years. During the last biennium, legislators introduced 1,244 bills and 546 resolutions, almost a third of which affected municipalities. Many candidates have no experience with local government and give little thought to helping or harming municipalities once in office – unless *you* tell them. Candidates need to know your priorities, and *you* need to know where they stand on important governance issues, issues that will influence your vote when you go to the ballot box.

As the campaign season progresses, your VLCT Advocacy staff will send you and the candidates background issue papers on municipal priorities for action in the 2019-2020 biennium. Watch your mailbox for these! We urge you to review those issue papers and to ...

Host a candidate's forum! Maximize the accountability of the legislators who represent you in the State House. Make sure they know who to call with questions about the impact of legislation on your town.

How to Hold a Candidate Forum

The attached Tool Kit contains materials to help you host and publicize a Candidate Forum, including:

- Suggestions for running the Candidate Forum and a draft agenda.
- A letter of invitation to candidates.
- A draft press/website release notifying the public of the Candidate Forum.
- Sample questions to ask candidates about their positions on municipal priorities.

Remember to post to your website, Facebook, Twitter, Front Porch Forum, and any other social media your town uses!

If you have any questions about hosting a Candidate Forum, please contact Karen Horn (khorn@vlct.org or 800-649-7915). We are happy to provide whatever assistance we can, and we look forward to hearing the results of your Candidate Forum!