

HOST A CANDIDATE FORUM

Like organizing a letter writing event, hosting a candidate forum requires careful pre-planning and thought. However, hosting such an event is an effective tool to connect your faith community not only to a particular candidate/group of candidates, but also to the wider community. Here are some considerations to take into account when hosting a candidate forum:

1. Choose what level of government to focus on (county, local, state, federal) in consultation with FAN.
2. Think way, way ahead (starting at the next election date and working backward). This means starting to think about hosting a forum 6-9 months in advance of when the actual forum will take place.
3. Ask yourself:
 - a. What particular office will we focus on? Governor? State representative? Mayor? Other?
 - b. What district are we targeting?
 - i. This will depend on where your faith community is located.
 - c. What will our focus be?
 - i. A lot will depend on the candidate's status- incumbent? challenger?
4. Don't forget about the logistics!
 - a. Have all the candidates been invited?
 - b. Will you have food at the event?
 - c. Do you want to make the press aware?
5. After the event, send a thank you letter to the candidate(s).