

3 Questions to Ask Local Candidates

We all want to live in welcoming, safe, economically vibrant communities where everyone can flourish — but which candidates are up to the task?

Ask yourself these questions.



Are they accessible?

Elected officials can only represent their communities when they're listening to the people who live there. Local candidates should have an open line of communication to receive and respond to feedback. Try contacting the candidates you are interested in supporting to gauge how easy it is to get through.

Are they willing to work across differences and build bridges?

You never know when you might end up disagreeing with a local leader on an issue. Candidates who build coalitions of supporters from many different backgrounds will be more likely to consider another perspective and work toward mutually agreeable solutions.



Are they open to going where the data leads?

Effective leaders seek out rigorous and unbiased data to inform their decisions, even if that means pivoting their priorities. Look for candidates who are willing to change their mind when presented with convincing new information.



At a local level, the answers to these questions matter even more than your specific political philosophy. Don't let the heated national political climate spill into local elections. Look for leaders who listen, work well with others, and are open to informed innovation.