



Ensuring Opportunity Campaign to End Poverty in Contra Costa

Candidate Forum Strategy – Fall 2016

The Ensuring Opportunity Campaign is a collaborative, cross-sector effort to end poverty in Contra Costa County by addressing structural causes at the policy level.

Candidate Forums: Our goal is to elevate poverty-related issues for both audience members and candidates and to give candidates the sense that they are expected know and care about issues affecting residents who are struggling to make ends meet.

In lieu of hosting our own candidate forum, Ensuring Opportunity staff and allies are attending candidate forums hosted by other organizations. We are focusing on the two county Supervisor races (Districts III and V), and on three key cities: Richmond, Concord and Antioch. Following is a list of questions that want to ask (and have others ask) at each forum. Note that most forums are structured so that audience members submit questions on index cards to the moderator, who then chooses which questions to pose to the candidates. Thus there is no guarantee a question will be asked, so it pays to word it as concisely and compellingly as possible.

1. **What issues are most important to** residents who are struggling to make ends meet in your community/district, and how will you address these needs?
2. **What steps will you commit to**, to reduce poverty in your community/district?
3. *(for county Supervisor candidates):* What is your position on continuing and expanding the **Contra Costa CARES** pilot program that provides health care for aspiring Americans?
4. What are the biggest **housing issues** facing working families in your community/district? If elected, how will you address these issues?
5. What is your position on **implementing rent control and just-cause eviction policies** in your community to address the growing housing crisis?
6. What strategies do you support to **ensure fewer children and families in your community/district are going hungry**?