

# 20 Questions To Ask A Politician

## TEN QUESTIONS TO ASK EVERY POLITICIAN

Ask your candidate these questions and find out if they are committed to supporting people with disabilities

### Promoting Health and Well-being

1. Will your party support and fund a national policy to address Canada's mental health crisis? (Especially for people with disabilities.)
2. Will your party amend the Canada Health Act to include palliative care as a core service?
3. Will your party preserve and protect the end of life criteria related to medical assistance in dying?

### Inclusive Housing

4. Will your party adopt new legislation to protect the right to housing for all?
5. Will your party fund affordable, accessible and inclusive housing for people with intellectual disabilities?
6. Will your party use the *Housing Inclusivity Framework* when funding housing-related projects across the country?

### Poverty, Jobs and Financial Security

7. Will your party adopt a targeted employment strategy for persons with disabilities?
8. Will your party practice inclusive hiring?
9. Will your party change the ten-year rule to allow for greater flexibility in making *Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)* withdrawals? (And address the issues of legal capacity for persons with intellectual disabilities.)
10. Will your party make the *Disability Tax Credit* refundable? (And ensure that this refund is not be clawed back by other governments if the person is receiving social assistance.)

*These questions are based on the **National Disability Action Plan**, was created by the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL) to identify the key issues in the 2019 election.*

20 questions to ask a politician can serve as a critical tool for voters seeking to understand the positions, values, and intentions of those who wish to represent them. Politicians often rely on their charisma and rhetoric to win votes, but probing inquiries can reveal their true commitments and plans. By asking the right questions, citizens can gain insights into the candidate's policies, priorities, and overall vision for governance. This article presents a comprehensive list of questions that can guide voters in their quest for accountability and transparency.

## Understanding Policy Positions

When engaging with a politician, understanding their policy positions is vital. Here are some focused questions that can elicit clear responses regarding their stance on key

issues:

## **1. What are your top three priorities if you are elected?**

This question allows the politician to outline their immediate focus areas, giving voters insight into what they consider most important.

## **2. How do you plan to address the current economic challenges facing our community?**

Economics is a pressing issue for many voters. Understanding a candidate's approach to economic recovery, job creation, and fiscal responsibility is crucial.

## **3. What specific policies will you implement to tackle climate change?**

Climate change is a global crisis that requires immediate attention. A candidate's approach to this issue can highlight their commitment to sustainable practices.

## **4. How do you plan to improve healthcare access and affordability for your constituents?**

Healthcare remains a significant concern for many voters. This question can lead to discussions about insurance, public health initiatives, and healthcare reforms.

## **5. What is your stance on education reform, particularly regarding funding and accessibility?**

Education is foundational to community growth. Understanding a politician's view on educational equity can inform voters about their priorities for future generations.

## **Accountability and Transparency**

Voters deserve to know how politicians will remain accountable to their constituents. Here are questions that probe the commitment to transparency and ethics:

## **6. How will you ensure transparency in your decision-making process?**

This question addresses the importance of open governance and how the politician plans to communicate with the public.

## **7. What measures will you take to combat corruption within the political system?**

Corruption undermines democracy. Asking this question can reveal a candidate's commitment to ethical governance.

## **8. How often will you hold town hall meetings or public forums to engage with your constituents?**

Direct engagement is essential for understanding the needs of the community. This question assesses how accessible the politician will be to their voters.

## **9. Can you share any specific instances where you stood up against party pressure to do what you believe is right?**

This question seeks to understand the politician's integrity and independence in their decision-making.

# **Social Issues and Community Engagement**

Social issues often resonate deeply with voters. Here are questions that address community involvement and social justice:

## **10. What initiatives do you support to promote social justice and equality in our community?**

This question invites discussion on policies aimed at reducing inequality and fostering inclusivity.

## **11. How will you work to improve public safety while also addressing concerns about police reform?**

Public safety is a complex issue that requires balance. This question allows for a nuanced discussion on law enforcement and community relations.

## **12. What are your views on immigration reform, and how do you plan to address this issue?**

Immigration is a hot-button topic that affects many families. Understanding a politician's perspective on this matter is crucial for informed voting.

### **13. How do you plan to support local businesses and entrepreneurs?**

Local economies thrive when businesses succeed. This question can reveal the politician's plans for economic development at the grassroots level.

### **14. What steps will you take to ensure affordable housing for all residents?**

Housing is a fundamental need. This question can gauge a politician's understanding of and approach to housing crises.

## **Governance and Leadership Style**

Leadership style can significantly impact how a politician governs. Here are questions that explore their leadership philosophy:

### **15. How do you define effective leadership, and how does that influence your approach as a politician?**

This question allows the politician to articulate their leadership philosophy and how it shapes their decision-making.

### **16. How will you prioritize collaboration with other elected officials and community organizations?**

Collaboration is key to effective governance. This question assesses the politician's willingness to work across party lines and with various stakeholders.

### **17. What role do you believe that public input should play in governance?**

Understanding a politician's view on public engagement can shed light on how they will involve constituents in the legislative process.

## **Future Vision and Legacy**

Voters should also consider what kind of legacy a politician aims to leave behind. Here are questions that delve into their long-term vision:

## **18. What do you hope to achieve by the end of your term in office?**

A candidate's vision for their term can indicate their ambition and the issues they prioritize.

## **19. How do you plan to involve younger generations in politics and civic engagement?**

The future of democracy relies on youth engagement. This question can reveal how a politician plans to inspire young people to participate.

## **20. What do you want your legacy to be when you leave office?**

This closing question allows the politician to reflect on their long-term goals and the impact they hope to have on their community and beyond.

## **Conclusion**

Asking the right questions is essential for voters who want to make informed decisions at the ballot box. 20 questions to ask a politician can help unveil the candidate's true intentions, policy positions, and commitment to serving the public. Engaging in meaningful dialogue not only promotes accountability but also encourages a more informed electorate. By approaching politicians with thoughtful inquiries, citizens can hold leaders to higher standards and work towards a more equitable and transparent political system. As elections approach, let these questions guide you in your conversations and help shape the future of your community.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What motivated you to enter politics?**

I was driven by a desire to create positive change in my community and to advocate for the issues that matter most to the people I represent.

### **How do you prioritize your constituents' needs?**

I actively engage with my constituents through town hall meetings, surveys, and social media to understand their concerns and priorities.

## What is your stance on climate change?

I believe that climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time, and I support policies that promote renewable energy and sustainability.

## How do you handle disagreements within your party?

I believe in open dialogue and collaboration. It's important to listen to different viewpoints and work towards a consensus.

## What plans do you have to improve the economy?

I plan to invest in job training programs, support small businesses, and create incentives for companies to innovate and expand.

## How do you ensure transparency in your office?

I commit to regular updates to my constituents, open access to my office's activities, and a clear process for accountability.

## What is your approach to healthcare reform?

I support a comprehensive approach that ensures affordable access to healthcare for all, while also addressing the rising costs.

## How do you engage with young voters?

I prioritize outreach through social media, youth forums, and community events to ensure their voices are heard and represented.

## What is your position on education funding?

I advocate for increased funding for public education and equitable access to resources for all students.

## How do you balance local and national issues?

I strive to address local issues while also considering their impact on broader national policies, ensuring that both are prioritized.

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## URL encoding the space character: + or %20? - Stack Overflow

Oct 27, 2009 · As the aforementioned RFC does not include any reference of encoding spaces as +, I guess using %20 is the way to go today. For example, "%20" is the percent-encoding for the binary octet "00100000" (ABNF: %x20), which in US ...

## A html space is showing as %2520 instead of %20 - Stack Overflow

Apr 18, 2013 · A bit of explaining as to what that %2520 is : The common space character is encoded as %20 as you noted yourself. The % character is encoded as %25. The way you get %2520 is when your url already has a %20 in it, and gets urlencoded again, which transforms the %20 to %2520. Are you (or any framework you might be using) double encoding characters? ...

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