

## **Issues and questions you can raise at “All-Candidates” meetings**

A really good, and fun, way to get involved in local politics and have a positive impact is to go to an all candidates meeting in your community and ask a question of the people who want your vote.

Ask the candidates what they see as the role public services play in your community?

Are they are willing to promise to keep these services in public hands?

Do they believe in local economic development?

How will they protect services?

For more questions you can ask, please go CUPE Ontario’s Municipal Elections Tool Kit [ [Link](#) ]

### **Here a few sector-specific questions:**

**If you are a municipal worker, there are lots of questions you can ask that are directly about the municipal services you deliver.** Your CUPE local will know what’s at immediate risk of privatization in your community. Ask specific questions about that at your all candidates meetings. Here are some more general questions that you might also want to consider asking:

What do you think of contracting out of public services?

How do you think municipal services should be funded?

Do you think municipal assets should be sold in order to finance operating costs?

Consider asking about the municipality’s plans to deal with population growth.

How would you go about making public transit more affordable and accessible?

What will you do to protect local economic development? What do you think of the new free trade agreement – the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between Canada and the EU – that the federal government is currently negotiating?

**On Oct 25<sup>th</sup>, you will also have a chance to elect school board trustees.** Ontario’s school boards make critical decisions about how to spend education taxes. Even if you don’t have kids in school, these decisions will affect you as a union member and a community member. Consider asking your school board trustee candidates some of these questions:

In general, do you believe privatization and contracting out of public services has a place in our public schools?

As a trustee, do you support the Early Learning Program, including School Boards providing year-round, before and after school care?

Are you happy with the state of cleanliness and mechanical repair in schools? If not, how would you work to improve it?

Do you agree that having educational assistants and library technicians supervise regular students’ amounts to hidden cuts to special education and libraries?

Do you believe Board support staff play a crucial role in ensuring safe and healthy learning environments for students?

Will you work to make sure that schools remain open in all communities and work with elected municipal politicians to maximize their use as community hubs?

**If you are a health care worker, ask your candidates some of these questions:**

Will you vote to make sure that any municipal contributions to hospital infrastructure only go toward public health care facilities and not toward public private partnerships?

Do you support fair wages for all municipal health care workers?

Do you recognize the role health care workers play in your municipality?

Will you work to make sure that any changes to health care delivery do not lead to the further privatization of health care services?

**If you are a social service worker, ask your candidates some of these questions:**

What will you do to increase core, stable and fair funding for community social services?

Will you support the use of municipal and school board building space for social service programs?

Do you support all agency workers receiving fair wages, benefits and pensions?

What will you do to make sure that social services don't continue to rely upon a casual and precarious workforce?

**If you are a university sector worker, consider asking your candidates some of these questions:**

How will you address the public transit needs for students?

What will you do to make sure that students are integrated into the life of your community?

How will you address local economic development?

What public services do you see as priority areas in the next four years?