



## Campaigning on the E-Democracy Neighbors Forums

Candidates for public office (including incumbents) are welcome to participate in the E-Democracy Neighbors Forums. They are a great resource for you to:

- Tap into the “pulse” of the community and learn more about the issues that matter to your constituents
- Gather input or feedback on projects, options, actions, or decisions
- Visibly show your commitment to the community

In the end, your participation in the Neighbors Forums will help you build connections with constituents.

### Special Rules for Election Season

- Soliciting campaign donations is not allowed due to E-Democracy’s non-profit status
- There is not a restriction on expressing support for a candidate, including hearing directly from the candidate and/or campaign staff as long as it is within our \*local forum scope\*
  - Neighbors Forums are far more constrained than the citywide Issues Forums that are more political - e.g., <http://e-democracy.org/stpaul> For local scope sake we need to know your connection to the neighborhood. To participate in these forums, clearly state your neighborhood of residence (or you can add that information to your member profile on the website) and/or your area of representation.
  - Discussions also need to be within the civility rules (no name calling, unsubstantiated rumors, etc.) - <http://e-democracy.org/rules> Personal attacks or negative campaigning will likely cross the line and may lead to official warnings and forum suspensions.

### Information that can be provided by Candidates and/or their Campaign Staff

- Candidates may introduce themselves and share links; campaign staff may do so as well
- Candidates and/or staff may invite the community to meet the candidate events or community events the candidate will be attending \*including recruit volunteers\* but \*excluding fundraisers\* ...that's the potential trouble area with the tax authorities
- Candidates may offer to answer questions or share positions on issues with a direct local connection to the local forum neighborhood (the more specific the better)

### Engaging with Forum Members

Forum members may offer their views on the election issues that matter to them or ask candidates about positions on neighborhood issues. Again, candidates may tie responses to local events, resources, trends, etc. within the local forum scope. For additional guidance, check the rules for participation at <http://pages.e-democracy.org/Rules> and your forum’s charter. If you’ve checked these and you still have questions, ask for guidance from your local Forum Manager before posting.