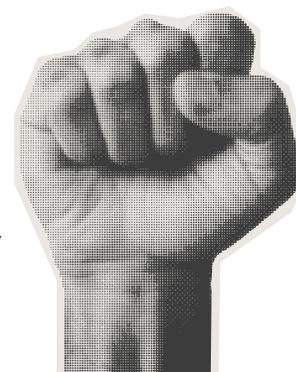


Attending community events or town halls where candidates are present is a powerful opportunity to make sure your voice is heard.

For candidates, these events provide connection and insight into what their future constituents want and need – so let's make sure they hear loud and clear that child care is at the top of our priority list!

**Your mission is simple:** find an event, tell your story, and ask the candidates, "Will you prioritize child care in your first 100 days in office?" Pro tip: this action packs an even greater punch if you bring some friends!

In this resource guide, Moms First has gathered all the information you need to participate in a town hall or community event, no matter if it's your first time or your fiftieth. **And don't forget – if you attend an event, let us know how it went at [ontherecord@momsfirst.us](mailto:ontherecord@momsfirst.us).**



## BEFORE THE COMMUNITY EVENT

### 1 FIND YOUR CANDIDATES

Find out who is on your ballot by typing your address into [this tool](#). Learn about their positions on child care by checking their websites, social media, and past statements.

Remember, this campaign (and Moms First) are nonpartisan – our goal is to ensure that every candidate for office, regardless of party, is prioritizing child care.

### 2 FIND UPCOMING EVENTS

Check candidates' social media, websites, and event calendars to identify upcoming town halls, debates, stops at a farmers market or community event, or other public appearances.

Subscribe to candidates' email lists, contact their campaigns via email or social media, or call their campaign office.

**A heads up:** you might find out about some events just a few days in advance!

### 3

## RALLY YOUR CREW

Text your friends to see who is available to join you! Having more people in the audience gives you more opportunities to get your question asked. Plus, it's always better with friends.

**Have fun with it:** you can wear matching green shirts and even bring a sign or two

### 4

## PREPARE YOUR QUESTION

You'll likely have less than 30 seconds to ask your question, so prepare how you will introduce yourself, share why this issue matters to you, and how you will ask the question.



**Sample: Hi, I'm Ana Sullivan. I'm a mom of two kids under age 5 and I pay more per month for child care than I earn from my full time job. And I know I'm not alone – all of my friends are struggling to pay for child care. What is your plan to solve our child care crisis, and will you prioritize it in the first 100 days if you are elected?**

## AT THE COMMUNITY EVENT

**Get There Early for a Prime Spot:** Arriving early can make all the difference, especially if the candidate is popular. Being close increases your chances of being seen and called upon. **Remember:** Campaign schedules can change, so it's smart to build in extra time.

**Sit Smart:** If you're in a group, try to spread out a bit! This way, you'll all have a better chance of getting called on—it also opens the door for you to follow up on each other's questions.

**Ask Your Question Early:** Don't hesitate—when the candidate invites questions, raise your hand right away! As they say, the early bird gets the worm, and in this case they get their question asked.



**Sample: Hi, I'm Ana Sullivan. I'm a mom of two kids under age 5 and I pay more per month for child care than I earn from my full time job. And I know I'm not alone – all of my friends are struggling to pay for child care. What is your plan to solve our child care crisis, and will you prioritize it in the first 100 days if you are elected?**

**Position Yourself Wisely:** Try to find a spot where the candidate is likely to pass by for informal, unscripted opportunities to ask your question. If you're attending a community event (e.g., a local nonprofit event or diner visit), staying close to the candidate can really pay off! Being near the entrance or exit is a great strategy, just in case you have an opportunity to ask a question as they arrive or leave.

### Capture Those Responses:



**Record a Video:** Get organized ahead of time! Decide who in your group will capture the moment on video and post on social media. Remember pics or it didn't happen — and make sure to tag @MomsFirstUS and the candidate! If you're flying solo, ask someone nearby to help record.



**Take Notes:** Write down the candidate's responses so you have an accurate record you can refer back to later. Voice recording apps are great for this!

**Look for the Media:** Journalists often seek out individuals who have asked candidates questions at community events. If you're comfortable, share your experience with the press! Just remember to stay on topic and share how the issue personally affects you. This is all about the issues, regardless of party lines.

## AFTER THE COMMUNITY EVENT

**Share Your Experience:** We want to know how it went and what the candidates had to say! Email us at [ontherecord@momsfirst.us](mailto:ontherecord@momsfirst.us) with notes, photos, or videos. We'd love to share your wins with the whole Moms First community.

**Keep the Conversation Going:** If a candidate felt a bit vague or non-committal, don't hesitate to follow up! You can reach out via email or at future events to press for more details. This is also a perfect opportunity to write a Letter to the Editor, reinforcing your question or urging both candidates to provide more clarity.