

**Project/Program: CANDIDATE WATCH**

Overview: Ensure that the upcoming municipal elections are driven by the electorate's priorities and concerns by pushing candidates to respond to the issues raised by EngageNOLA on behalf of the general electorate, particularly the young adult electorate. Funding will be needed for printing candidate surveys in hardcopy format to be distributed to individuals without regular online access and at events.

Objectives: Develop candidate surveys eliciting their responses on specific municipal issues, with the priority of eliciting responses based on data and evidence. Introduce accountability as a crucial aspect of municipal politics by tracking and publicizing on our website discrepancies between candidate survey responses and recent statements or developments over the course of the campaigns.

Calendar of Events: 8/25 - Email to community organizations to solicit survey questions  
9/15 - deadline for orgs to submit questions  
10/5 - deadline for beginning distribution and publication of candidate surveys

Target Constituency: We have a list of approx. 240 organizations and contact persons (with expertise and experience working with government in the **topic areas** listed in "Capacity" section below) whom we will approach to aid with the development of the survey and tracking of candidate responses.

Timeframe: 8/10 - Code spreadsheet of community organizations according to issues (Eban)  
8/10 - Email PDF of 3rd party contact spreadsheet to EngageNOLA to solicit additions (Todd)  
8/14 - Reach out to Universities to help track campaigns. (Kelisha)  
8/14 - EngageNOLA additions to contact list due  
8/21 - email draft of email blast soliciting survey questions to Candidate Watch Action Team  
8/22 (tentative) - distribute candidate follow-up/response tracking assignments among Action Team members  
8/24 - Present draft email for comments & suggestions at Monday evening meeting to EngageNOLA  
9/15 - deadline for partner organizations to submit questions  
10/1 - Draft of Survey to EngageNOLA for comments, edits, suggestions  
10/5 - Final Survey distributed to candidates; begin publication on website as responses received  
12/9-12/11 - qualifying for municipal races  
1/1 - Deadline for receipt of surveys from candidates; give to Communications Committee.  
2/6 - Primary      3/6 - Run-off

Capacity: **Public Safety** - John / **Public Health** - Eban / **Transportation** - Dan, John  
**Infrastructure** - Dan, Andrew / **Education** - Eban, Laila / **Environment** - Todd / **Housing** - Laila  
**Econ Dev** - Kelisha / **Governance** - Todd / **Community Development & Culture** - ??? /  
**Race and Social Justice** - Laila, Kelisha

Partnerships/Volunteers: This effort will require substantial consultation and partnership with the EngageNOLA Communications Committee. Also, we will solicit the wider EngageNOLA membership to volunteer themselves and help identify residents of each City Council district to track these races since doing so exceeds the current capacity of the Candidate Watch Action Team; and we are reaching out to local universities to identify students interested in aiding in this effort.

**Next Steps**

Monday, August 10: Action Teams Report-outs  
circa Saturday, August 22: Action Team meeting / conference call to  
Wednesday, August 26: Carville/Matalin Event  
August 2009 - January 2010: Implement Planned Programming