

# Public Health on the Ballot

This November, 435 U.S. representatives and 35 U.S. senators are up for election. Congress has the power to help make the United States a healthier nation. As you consider your options at the polls, find out if your candidates are likely to champion public health if they are elected by asking your candidates the following questions at a town hall, on the phone, on Twitter, in an email or however you reach them. We encourage you to also **ask, “why?”** *Why do you support this policy over the other? Why have you taken that position? What’s your evidence?*

Public health needs champions in Washington, D.C., who will support evidence-based policies. Let’s ask the right questions to make sure we know where our candidates stand on important public health issues.

## FUNDING FOR PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS AND PROGRAMS

- Will you support a robust, long-term mandatory investment in public health infrastructure, including our state, local and tribal health departments, to ensure that we have the ability to respond to future public health emergencies like COVID-19?
- Will you support funding for a loan repayment program and other measures to recruit and retain public health professionals at our state, local and tribal health departments?
- Will you oppose efforts to cut, misuse or misdirect funding from the Prevention and Public Health Fund?

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH

- How will you protect our community from the health impacts of climate change?
- Will you support climate change policy that’s backed by science?

## GUN VIOLENCE

- Will you support funding for gun violence prevention research and background checks for all firearm purchases to help keep our community safe from the epidemic of gun violence?

## AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

- Will you fight to protect the Affordable Care Act from attempts to repeal it in Congress and efforts to dismantle it in the courts such as the current *Texas v. U.S.* case before the Supreme Court?

## POLICIES THAT SUPPORT FAMILIES, WOMEN AND CHILDREN

- Will you support laws that guarantee women access to the full range of reproductive health services?
- Will you support paid family and medical leave and affordable child care for all Americans?

## HEALTH EQUITY AND DISCRIMINATION

- Will you support legislation to promote health equity and address social determinants of health?
- Will you oppose efforts to roll back civil rights protections in health care, such as the HHS Final Rule that would allow health care discrimination against transgender individuals?