



Five Environmental Questions to Ask at a Candidate Forum in 2010

Some candidate forums have one set topic while others cover a wide range of topics. Some forums encourage audience members to ask questions while others stick to a set list of questions. Whatever type of forum you attend – you will learn a lot about the character, policies and ideas of candidates. Here are few environmental questions you could ask!

1. A critical element to stopping out-of-control development is to keep our existing neighborhoods strong and to revitalize those that have failed. What specific policies would you support to encourage the revitalization of our older communities? Specifically, how would you fund community revitalization programs?
2. Do you support establishing new standards that will reduce polluted run-off from farmlands?
3. In 2008, the state established the EmPower Maryland program to reduce our energy consumption 15 percent, per capita, by 2015. So far, implementation has fallen far short of this goal. What can the legislature do to address this shortfall?
4. Funding within the Strategic Energy Investment Fund that was intended for energy efficiency programs, such as home weatherization, was diverted for rate payer assistance in FY10 and FY11. Will you ensure that this money is not diverted again in the future?
5. Depending on where you live in the state – ask the candidates if they support one or two of the following projects:
 - Widening of Route 32 in Howard County
 - Adding HOV/HOT lanes to existing lanes on the I-495 Beltway
 - Cross County Connector in Charles County
 - Corridor Cities Transit Way
 - Widening I-95 north of Baltimore County
 - Widening I-795
 - The Purple Line
 - Baltimore Red Line

Be sure to tell us of your experience at a Candidate Forum and what you learned about the candidates. Email us at edfund@mdlcv.org subject line – “Candidate Forum Stories”.