

## Your handy guide to **attending a hustings**

We all know that our economy is unfair and unbalanced. By reforming our money and banking system, the next government can help fix it. But first, we need to get our future MPs on side.

Election hustings events are a great opportunity to do that. Held in most constituencies around the country, they offer the chance to question your candidates and influence their thinking.

### **What is a hustings?**

A hustings is a meeting where election candidates answer questions from an audience. They're usually held by organisations such as community groups, so that voters can ask candidates about issues that are important to them. Some will be focused around a specific issue but others will be more general. They provide a chance to influence the thinking of the candidates and raise issues of concern.

### **Where to find them**

Hustings events are often hosted in community spaces such as churches, schools, universities and community centres. They'll normally be advertised locally and you will sometimes need to register to attend as spaces will be limited. Some common places that you will be able to find information about them are:

- Online; try searching for "hustings" and the name of your constituency
- In local newspapers
- In shop windows or notice boards
- In GP surgeries, schools or libraries

### **What to expect**

Each event is organised and structured slightly differently; the event organisers may ask attendees to submit questions beforehand which will be shared with all the candidates before the event. If you want to ask a question you will therefore need to check the form of the event in good time in order to make sure that your question is at least seen by the candidate.

### **A sample question**

I'd like to ask what you'd do about our increasingly unbalanced economy. At the moment banks are pumping money into financial and property markets, giving us an oversized financial sector and a housing crisis. The rich are getting richer, and leaving the rest of us behind, while small businesses and manufacturers are starved of the money they need to

invest and create jobs. It's our broken money and banking system that's making the economy so unbalanced. If elected, what would you do to fix it?

### Follow-up

Will you:

- Push the Bank of England to put newly-created money straight into the real economy?
- Regulate banks to limit the amount of money they put into property and financial markets?

### **Some advice**

Depending on the format, there may be time scheduled for live questions from the audience. If you do speak at the event here are some tips for making the most of the opportunity:

- Keep your question short and sweet! There will be lots of people trying to ask questions in a limited amount of time so plan what you want to say in a succinct way (see our suggestion above)
- Follow up. Don't worry if you get asked questions and you don't have the answers, take some notes and say that you'll get back to them later. You can also follow up with the candidate after the event, by email, phone or letter
- Let us know how it goes. Please let us know how the event went and if you managed to ask a question. Email Rachel at [rachel.oliver@positivemoney.org.uk](mailto:rachel.oliver@positivemoney.org.uk) or call us on 0207 253 3235.