

Candidate Engagement Guide

For Advocacy Teams | Fall 2026

Why should we engage candidates? It's a great opportunity to begin developing a relationship with someone who may serve in federal office. Engaging candidates allows you to share about FCNL and issues you care about, and catch them at a time when they are eager to talk with constituents. We hope that advocates in districts/states with contested races especially take on this challenge. Learn more about why engaging candidates is strategic [here](#).

How can we engage candidates? Show up to candidate events in your community, attend town halls and try to ask a question, drop by a campaign office, organize a joint letter to candidates, invite candidates to an event you host, or request a meeting with the candidate.

What topics should I focus on when talking with a candidate? We hope you will introduce FCNL, your Advocacy Team, develop a relationship, and share the issue we're working on this year, and ask for their position on it. Here is our [No Funding for Iran War leave behind](#).

What is a focused question I can ask each candidate?

My name is _____, and I'm from _____. The war with Iran is already affecting me and my community because _____. I'm deeply concerned about the human and financial costs of this war, and I don't believe more war will make us safer.

Will you commit to opposing and blocking any funding for this war with Iran, and to using your vote to prevent further U.S. military escalation?

Tip: Consider going to an event with other people who are ready to ask the same question. This strategy of engaging with candidates increases the chances that one of you will be called on to speak.

Report your candidate engagement efforts here: fcnl.org/CandidateReport

FCNL is a nonpartisan organization that does not endorse particular candidates or parties. We encourage everyone to vote according to their conscience. We also encourage advocates to build relationships with candidates of all parties as we hope to encourage all elected officials to move closer to our point of view.