

## Democracy in Action! Conversation 2 Collective Statements

**Question 1: How can we know confidently that candidates have demonstrated these attributes (as collected in Conversation 1) in their previous practice?**

***Ask them at a public meeting to share the evidence of having done the things listed in their past activities***

- Via their history of voting and practice, etc.
- Direct contact, public forums
- Take them on their word

***Have the community complete an assessment of what they have seen as evidence from this candidate***

- Looking at candidates' previous work and community involvements
- Checking if their online representation actually matches their results
- Via easily accessed forms of communication – online, different media, dedicated websites (e.g. one general website)
- Hansard and candidates' websites
- ABC Media – trusted and balanced
- Relevant interested parties
- From their opposition

**Question 2: How do we expect candidates to balance their responsibilities to their party or group with their responsibilities to their electorate community?**

***Candidates need good, reliable participatory processes to be confident they know their whole community's views on highly charged issues***

- Through honest communications setting out clearly the party commitments and what they will do for constituents.
- By listening and responding to constituents honestly and promptly.
- We expect them to take a stand during party discussions on what their constituents think are important but may not be consistent with party policies (it also needs to be declared/displayed publicly when they take a stand in this manner)

***The candidate should be beholden to the community over the party***

- Don't always put party first
- Candidates should challenge their party on issues they know their community wants addressed and they should cross the floor when they can strongly justify their conviction
- Parties work on ideology not evidence – we need parties to do work on their ideology to integrate the latest evidence

***Be independent***

- They can't – ideology vs evidence conflict in many position areas/statements/aims and objectives
- Mission impossible!

**Question 3: How can we find out that the party/group/personal platforms and promises are consistent with community needs and are prioritised for the community's benefit?**

***Parties should demonstrate how their platforms match up to participatory processes that show evidence of what the community needs***

- Parties should have open processes to include community views in their party
- Need evidence based info that candidates are meeting our needs
- Seeking evidence from citizen assemblies
- Open communication regarding universal needs
- Stating clearly that community wants are not necessarily satisfied
- Be open that there will be winners and losers
- Monitor community responses to action/inaction
- How do we know what the community needs are or what the community has decided its needs are – all needs could vary widely. Also, how do candidates know which needs they should be trying to meet?

***Polls – e.g. SMH, Canberra Times***

- Ask interested parties
- Potentially have to go on faith

**Question 4: Where do we find out the information we want to know about candidates?**

***Ask them face-to-face during campaign “events”***

- Ask candidates: ‘what indicators do you use for community wellbeing?’
- From meeting with them (individually and in public meet ups)
- Public meetings, community meet and greet events
- By sending them questions and asking for specific answers on what they will do (e.g on health, education, environment, climate change, defence, foreign relations, etc.)
- Ask candidates: 1. Qualifications 2. Leadership experience 3. Environmental impact 4. Prosperity and Wellbeing indicators for community 5 Climate policy 6. Population policy 7. How's life?
- Not from personal profiles
- Personal response (do we like them?)

***Candidates should have their statements on Vote Easy website***

- Dedicated websites and other media
- More detailed info at stalls – being open to more personal information
- Most flyers do not have sufficient info to learn about candidates.
- Media outlets

## CAPaD Conversation 2 raw notes

### **Question 1: How can we know that candidates have demonstrated these qualities in their previous practice?**

- Via easily accessed forms of communication – online, different media, dedicated websites (e.g. one general website)
- Hansard and candidates' websites
- ABC Media – trusted and balanced
- Via their history of voting and practice, etc.
- From their opposition
- Relevant interested parties
- Direct contact, public forums
- Take them on their word
- Looking at candidates' previous work and community involvements
- Checking if their online representation actually matches their results
- Ask them at a public meeting to share the evidence of having done the things listed in their past activities
- Have the community complete an assessment of what they have seen as evidence from this candidate

### **Question 2: How can candidates balance party and community responsibilities?**

- Through honest communications setting out clearly the party commitments and what they will do for constituents.
- By listening and responding to constituents honestly and promptly.
- Mission impossible!
- Don't always put party first
- Be independents
- They can't – ideology vs evidence conflict in many position areas/statements/aims and objectives
- The candidate should be beholden to the community over the party
- Candidates should challenge their party on issues they know their community wants addressed and they should cross the floor when they can strongly justify their conviction
- Candidates need good, reliable participatory processes to be confident they know their whole community's views on highly charged issues
- Parties work on ideology not evidence – we need parties to do work on their ideology to integrate the latest evidence
- We expect them to take a stand during party discussions on what their constituents think are important but may not be consistent with party policies (it also needs to be declared/displayed publicly when they take a stand in this manner)

### **Question 3: Party etc consistent with community needs / community benefits?**

- Open communication regarding universal needs
- Stating clearly that community wants are not necessarily satisfied

# CAPaD - *Awakening Democracy*

## The Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

- That there will be winners and losers
- Monitor community responses to action/inaction
- Ask interested parties
- Polls – e.g. SMH, Canberra Times
- Potentially have to go on faith
- Need evidence based info that candidates are meeting our needs
- Seeking evidence from citizen assemblies
- Parties should demonstrate how their platforms match up to participatory processes that show evidence of what the community wants
- Parties should have open processes to include community views in their party

Note: How do we know what the community needs are or what the community has decided its needs are – all needs could vary widely. Also, how do candidates know which needs they should be trying to meet?

### **Question 4: Information (issues and how constituents can obtain?)**

- Dedicated websites and other media
- More detailed info at stalls – being open to more personal informations
- For candidates (?)
- Not from personal profiles
- Ask them face-to-face during campaign “events”
- Candidates should have their statements on Vote Easy website
- Most flyers do not have sufficient info to learn about candidates.
- Public meetings, community meet and greet events
- Media outlets
- Personal response (do we like them?)
- From meeting with them (individually and in public meet ups)
- By sending them questions and asking for specific answers on what they will do (e.g on health, education, environment, climate change, defence, foreign relations, etc.)
- Ask candidates: ‘what indicators do you use for community wellbeing?’