

# LOCAL CANDIDATES RESEARCH GUIDE

The role of a member of the legislative assembly is important. They propose and vote on laws, advocate for their constituents, and bring attention to pressing needs of the province as a whole.

Unfortunately, local candidates often are overshadowed by their parties and their leaders. This is a problem: when citizens vote in a provincial election, they are voting for a local representative. It is key to know about your local candidates.

For each candidate vying for election in your constituency, consider the following questions:

1. Who is the candidate?
2. What has the candidate done outside of politics that would make them a good local representative?
3. Has the candidate made themselves available to the public, such as by appearing at local candidate forums, holding meetings, and giving interviews on social media or to local media?
4. What policies is the candidate focussed on?
5. How do the policies the candidate supports help your constituency? How do the policies help the province as a whole?
6. Does the candidate have ideas that are unique to your constituency, or are they just repeating their party's policies?
7. MLAs have to balance the views of their constituents, the political party whose platform they stood behind to get elected, and the needs of the province as a whole.
  - a) What would the candidate do if a party policy was different than what most of their constituents wanted?
  - b) What would the candidate do if the needs of the province as a whole were in conflict with a local need?
8. Would you trust this candidate to research, debate, and vote on the laws that govern the province?

