

Informed Citizens

Friends & Family Guidelines

The purpose of these Friends & Family Guidelines is to help voters share their Candidate Reviews with their Friends & Family members who would like to receive evaluations of Candidates intended to identify those most likely to support the Informed Citizens Plan for America and Informed Citizens Commission. Once an Informed Citizens Commission law is enacted and requires Candidates to report accurate and meaningful information, these Guidelines will be amended to include references to that information.

All qualified individuals who support the Informed Citizens Plan for America and Informed Citizens Commission are encouraged to run for office.

1. **Timing Overview**

- a. Issue your Candidate Reviews to your Friends & Family two weeks prior to elections to allow time for early voting and for review, questions and/or suggestions
 - i. Primary elections: dates vary significantly by state (from March to November)
 1. See the following website for each state's 2026 primary election date - www.ncsl.org/elections-and-campaigns/2026-state-primary-election-dates
 - ii. General elections: begin early September for early November elections

2. **Distribute Completed Candidate Review Forms**

- a. Distribute the Candidate Review Forms and Candidate Ratings Criteria (attached or as modified by you) to your Friends & Family group via email (or however is best for you)
- b. Consider scheduling a Zoom call or a get together a few days prior to election day with your Friends & Family group to discuss the Candidate Review Forms and to allow for questions
- c. Consider setting up a public Facebook Group page to post your Candidate Reviews
 - i. You could then provide the link to this Group page with all Candidate Reviews to post your personal Facebook page, your neighborhood Facebook Group page, etc. Your Friends & Family group members could forward the link to their friends and family, etc.
 - ii. You could name the page – “*Your Name Candidate Reviews*”

3. **Encourage Friends & Family to Vote**

- a. On election day encourage via email, Facebook, etc. Friends & Family members to vote

4. **Between elections**

- a. Encourage your Friends & Family member to follow elected leaders (i.e. attend town hall meetings, subscribe to newsletters, emails and other communications, request information, reach out to people who know or follow them, etc.)
- b. Identify others that may be interested in participating in your Friends & Family group to receive your Candidate Reviews for the next election

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Candidate Ratings Criteria

Overall Rating

- The Overall Rating for a Candidate is an average of the three categories below.

Integrity, Honesty, and Transparency Rating

- Rating of the Candidate's integrity, honesty and transparency in general and based on:
 - Positive ads, based on record, not attacking opponent or opponent party
 - Actions consistent with messaging
 - Transparent with the information required for this rating

Skills and Experience Rating

- Rating of the Candidate skills and experience for the role and responsibilities, based on:
 - Government and business experience
 - Education
 - Goals for the office

Balanced Solutions Rating

- Rating on whether the Candidate will evaluate all liberal and conservative perspectives and reach balanced solutions for the benefit of all citizens, which take into consideration:
 - Short-term and long-term impacts
 - Middle class and upper class interests
 - The Informed Citizens Plan for America and Informed Citizens Commission