

2016 NOW PAC Candidate Interview Guidelines

Information to gather at the interview:

Candidate	Party
Office Sought	District
Open seat, incumbent?	NOW member or activist?
Interviewer(s)	Date
Campaign contact info:	Website
Campaign Manager:	
Date of primary, runoff, general, filing dates	

Does candidate have a field plan that includes outreach to women voters?

Endorsement Criteria

Below are some sample questions to guide your interview with political candidates. The goal is to determine whether the candidate is a feminist, the depth of their commitment to NOW's issues, and whether they will prove to be a valuable ally in the future. The questions are not designed to "get them" but rather to open up a dialogue, which we hope will lead to an endorsement and the election of a feminist future leader. You do not need to ask every question but you need to ask enough questions to determine that the candidate strongly supports NOW's 6 endorsement criteria:

- Elimination of violence against women
- Abortion and reproductive rights without restriction
- Economic justice
- Promoting diversity and ending racism
- Constitutional equality for women
- LGBTQIA rights

2016 NOW PAC Candidate Interview Guidelines

If you are interviewing an incumbent who has been previously endorsed, it is only necessary to talk about new emerging issues. In 2016 the additional issues that need to be addressed are:

- Support congressional action to pass comprehensive immigration reform that provides a path to citizenship, values the economic and social contributions of immigrant women, and protects them from violence at the hands of employers and intimate partners.
- Support legislation to prohibit TRAP laws (Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers) such as unnecessary requirements for hospital admitting privileges and ambulatory surgical center standards imposed on women's health clinics.
- Support policies to promote paid sick and family leave.

When your state is ready to recommend endorsements of federal candidates to NOW PAC, please send your interview notes and/or a copy of the candidate questionnaire with any other pertinent information to elections@now.org.

Sample Questions

On elimination of violence against women:

- Would you support increased funding for domestic violence and sexual assault programs and making the services available in every state and county?
- Would you support fully funding the Violence against Women Act?
- Would you support funds for judicial training and educational efforts on college campuses on the issue of violence against women
- Do you support the Military Justice Improvement Act which seeks to take protection for women experiencing sexual assault in the military out of the chain of command?

2016 NOW PAC Candidate Interview Guidelines

On support for abortion and reproductive rights without restrictions:

- Do you support abortion rights without restrictions such as parental notification for minors, waiting periods, criminalization of assistance to teenagers crossing state lines to obtain abortions or limitation on abortion specifying fetal age (6, 12 week and 20 week bans)?
- Do you support federal funding for abortion and family planning for low income women, that is, inclusion of abortion coverage in all public health insurance programs?
- If the opportunity arose, would you support a single payer health care plan?
- Do you support removing restrictions on abortion for women in overseas military hospitals?
- Do you support funding for international family planning?
- Would you support legislation to prohibit TRAP laws (Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers) such as unnecessary requirements for hospital admitting privileges and ambulatory surgical center standards imposed on women's health clinics?

On economic justice:

- Do you support strengthening remedies for victims of pay discrimination on the basis of sex and strengthening employer requirements to prove reasoning for pay differentials?
- Do you support increasing the minimum wage? Livable wage legislation?
- Do you support policies to promote paid sick and family leave?
- Do you support ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for pregnant workers or workers who have a medical issue due to pregnancy?
- Do you oppose cuts to Social Security such as implementation of the chained CPI to determine Social Security benefits and increasing the retirement age?
- Would you support enhancements to Social Security, for instance implementing a caregiver credit and minimum benefits for chronically low-paid workers?
- Do you support raising the cap on wages subject to Social Security taxes as a method of strengthening Social Security?

2016 NOW PAC Candidate Interview Guidelines

Promoting diversity and ending racism:

- Would you consider supporting an amendment to the US Constitution guaranteeing the right to vote?
- Do you support Affirmative Action programs in the workplace and educational institutions for women and people of color?
- Would you support anti-shackling legislation for pregnant prison inmates?
- Do you support comprehensive immigration reform legislation that values the contributions of women and women's work and supports family unification and ensures protections for women survivors of violence and trafficking?
- Would you support eliminating immigration policies that will result in racial profiling of immigrant communities?
- Would you oppose legislation making it more difficult for Syrian refugees to gain admission to the U.S. by undergoing additional screening by the Department of Homeland Security?

On constitutional equality for women:

- Do you support enactment of the Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution
- Would you co-sponsor legislation supporting both the three-state strategy approach as well as reintroduction of a new amendment as avenues to enactment?

On LGBTQIA rights

- Would you co-sponsor comprehensive legislation to prohibit discrimination in employment, public accommodations, housing, credit, education, and jury service based on their perceived or actual sexual orientation or gender identity with a clear prohibition against the use of religious belief to engage in discrimination against LGBT persons?
- Would support legislation to prohibit any school program or activity receiving federal financial assistance from discriminating against any public school student on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity?

2016 NOW PAC Candidate Interview Guidelines

On feminist action

- What have you done to encourage more women to run for political office?
- Are you active in any women's rights organization?
- What political action or demonstrations have you participated in recently?

Additional Notes: