



Protect, Prevent, Live Well

Questions for town halls and other public forums

The following questions are designed to help start conversations about public health issues with policy makers at the local, state and federal level. They can be tailored to highlight local issues by providing local examples and concerns. Our goal is to demonstrate the importance of federal public health funding in communities around the country. The lists provided in questions 1 and 2 are not meant to be exhaustive. You are encouraged to pick examples that are relevant to you and your community.

1. I am concerned about the future of our state and local public health workforce and the important services they provide in our state and communities. These services include (***fill in with relevant examples – see list below for some options***). Are you familiar with the public health programs that are funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources and Services Administration in our state/district? Will you pledge to support adequate funding for these important agencies?
 - a. *Disease and injury prevention activities*
 - b. *Public health workers*
 - c. *Public health labs*
 - d. *Personnel at state and local health departments*
 - e. *Safety net for uninsured/ assuring access to care*
 - f. *Cancer screening*
 - g. *Vaccine delivery programs*
 - h. *Tobacco prevention programs*
 - i. *Protecting the public from environmental toxins and other exposures*
 - j. *Food safety*
 - k. *Maternal and child health care programs*

2. Earlier this year, **Congress made drastic cuts to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources and Services Administration** and the outlook for next year's budget is also bleak. These agencies provide funding for programs like (***fill in with relevant examples – see list below for some options***). How can we make progress against the economic and health-related costs of chronic and communicable disease and injuries when our country is not investing in the programs that prevent and treat these problems? Will you oppose future cuts to these critical programs?
 - a. *community health centers*
 - b. *obesity and tobacco use prevention*
 - c. *emergency preparedness and response*
 - d. *health professions training and education*
 - e. *health education and outreach*

3. It's been said that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Do you support maintaining funding for the **Prevention and Public Health Fund** which provides much needed mandatory funding that is being used for programs at the local, state, and federal level to fight obesity, curb tobacco use, increase access to preventive care services, as well as to help state and local government respond to public health threats and outbreaks?