

How can we make Pittsfield a great place
for everyone to live, learn, work, and play?



Community Conversations with Candidates for Local Office

Monday March 6, 2017

Pittsfield Elementary School Gym

6:00 pm Refreshments 6:30-8:30 pm Program

Everyone Welcome!

Remember to VOTE on Tuesday March 14!

The polling place is located at the Pittsfield Town Hall open 7 am-7 pm
Remember you can register to vote the day of elections

Please Note: *We are delighted to have this event covered by the press, local bloggers, and others who wish to record community affairs. We want to balance your interests with our participants' ability to express themselves in a safe environment, share an incomplete thought, or convey a personal story as a part of this process. We respectfully request that all representatives of the media (formal and informal) please ask permission to tape, photograph, identify, or quote an individual participant directly. During the small group conversations, attendees who wish to film may do so from our designated film area. Filming may not be done of or by participants from within the small discussion group. This is so we can promote an open exchange of ideas. We are happy to work with media who want to film and photograph large group activities. Thank you!*



Created by Pittsfield Listens

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Welcome and thank you for joining us! We are honored to provide this opportunity to talk with your neighbors about issues that are important to you, to ask your own questions, and to meet with candidates for local office. Here is the general outline of our evening:

Overview

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| 6:00 PM | Registration, Refreshments, and Informal Networking with Community Members and Candidates |
| 6:30 | Welcome, Purpose, Format |
| 6:40 | Small Group Conversations |
| 7:05 | Candidate Introductions |
| 7:10 - 7:30 | Rotation 1 |
| 7:30 – 7:50 | Rotation 2 |
| 7:50 – 8:10 | Rotation 3 |
| 8: 10 | Wrap Up, Thank You’s, Final Networking |

Pittsfield Listens provides a safe forum to get informed and discuss community issues that impact Pittsfield and its community members. We are about *Roundtables, Not Podiums*. We aim to bring together Pittsfield residents with different views to share ideas, get informed, and help shape the future of Pittsfield. If you are interested in more information, we look forward to you being in touch with us. **Pittsfield Listens and the Greater Pittsfield Chamber of Commerce do not endorse candidates.**

The goals of the Candidate community conversations are to:

- Provide an opportunity for community members to **identify and discuss their priorities** for local elected officials;
- Gather input from Pittsfield residents and give **candidates an opportunity to listen to voters and community members**;
- Create an opportunity for **voters and community members to ask questions of the candidates** and hear the candidate’s commitments and priorities, if elected.

Group Agreements

- Share airtime so everyone gets a chance to be heard.
- Be respectful and use respectful language.
- If you disagree, consider asking a question rather than arguing to prove your point.
- It’s okay to disagree, but don’t personalize it. Focus on the idea, not the person.
- Speak up if the process doesn’t seem fair.
- Personal stories stay in the group unless we all agree we can share them.
- If you talk about people who are not here, don’t use their names.
- Speak for yourself. Don’t try to speak for “your group.”
- It’s okay to put issues like race and class on the table.
- We all share responsibility for making the group productive.
- Listen to each other.

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Detailed Outline

- 6:00 PM** **Registration:** Sign in, refreshments, informal networking, meet and greet with the candidates and community members
- 6:30** **Welcome:** Greater Pittsfield Chamber of Commerce
Overview and group agreements – Pittsfield Listens
- 6:40** **Small Group Conversations:** *Candidates encouraged to join a group to LISTEN*
Facilitator introduction. The facilitator’s role is to:
- Help with the process
 - Serve as a reminder of our agreements to be fair and respectful, and
 - Make sure everyone gets a chance to participate.
- Participants introduce themselves:**
- Name
 - One or two “hats” you wear in the community (student, business owner, parent/family member with kids in schools, active in community organization/church, etc.)
 - One thing you like about Pittsfield...
- Brainstorm the most important ISSUES and discuss Article #7 on SB2:**
- Brainstorm the critical issues you feel should be a priority for our elected leaders. We won’t all agree on these priorities, and we won’t get a chance to talk about in depth solutions to problems, but we want to create a list to share what is on your mind.
 - Refer to the information sheets on the table about Article #7 about SB2.
 - Again, *What are the critical issues you think are a priority for our next elected leaders? What questions do you have for the candidates? What are your thoughts or questions about SB2?* Individuals ask their own questions during the rotations with candidates.
- Note: Facilitators chart the priorities.*
- 7:00** **Candidate Introductions**
- Each candidate: please stand-up and share your name and the office you are running for. *This is so people can find you in the room during the rotations. Please, no speeches!*
- 7:10** **20 Minute Rotations with Candidates**
7:10 - 7:30 Rotation 1 | 7:30 – 7:50 Rotation 2 | 7:50 – 8:10 Rotation 3
- 8:10 PM** **Wrap Up, Thank You’s, Open Space and Final Networking**
- Thank you for coming! Please fill out the evaluation – it matters to us!
 - Final networking and information conversation between candidates and community member participants.

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