

Ice Breaker

If you were running for office, what would be your top transportation policy that you would run on?



What is WABA?

Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) is a 501(c)(3) member-supported organization founded in 1972 and serves the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region. WABA educates and advocates in The District of Columbia, Montgomery County; Prince George's County; Arlington County; Fairfax County; and the city of Alexandria.

WABA empowers people to ride bikes, build connections, and transform places. We envision a just and sustainable transportation system where walking, biking, and transit are the best ways to get around.



What Does WABA Do?

Outreach

We do public outreach at Farmers' Markets, Metro Stations, Community Events to inform the public about WABA's programs, bike laws, as well as hand out free swag (e.g free bike lights!)

Education

We conduct bike education classes aka learn to rides at public schools and host a summer camp for youth. We also host "learn to rides" for adults as well. We also have a "women and bicycles" group, where people who ID as women can have a safe space to share tips, host rides, and build community.





What Does WABA Do?

Host Rides

We host a lot of community rides. Some include the 50 states ride (In DC, riders bike to all streets named after a state), apple cider ride, youth rides and more.



What Does WABA Do?

Advocacy

WABA's advocacy campaigns include the Capital Trails Coalition, Families for Safe Streets, Crash Tracker, Low-Stress Bike Network Campaign, Vision Zero, Transportation Equity Campaigns (ex: Police of Traffic Enforcement. DC Transportation Equity Network)





Breakdown of Conversation

- Why elections are important
- What WABA and partners are doing for the 2022 Elections
 - Methods to determine which races to be involved in
 - Tactics to Engage in Elections
 - Questions and open discussion

Why Elections are important

- **Executives Matter.** Most elected executives (Mayors, Governors, County Executives) are responsible for their city's, county or state's daily operations. They are the deciders (as G.W. would say). You don't like the decisions, change the deciders; elections are the only way to do that .
- **If you have the votes you can work around Executives.** Most City Councils, County Councils or State Houses can override the Executive. Example: In Washington, DC the DC Council has passed laws that have forced the Mayor to act install infrastructure. If we have the allies and votes, although not always ideal its possible govern through a legislative body.



Why Elections are important

- **They are paying attention.** Elections are the strongest opportunities to have the ears of elected officials and it's a prime opportunity to educate them on our issues
- **Our base votes.** In local elections the margin to win are smaller, so our base of pro bikers, pro transit voters matters ALOT, and could be a deciding factor in a close race. Candidates have to know and see this.
- **Relationship building opportunities.** When you have an open election, it's easier to build relationship with new candidates and educate them on our issues then it is to have access to a former incumbent.



What is WABA doing?

WABA is a 501(c)3 so we can't endorse candidates but we can still do alot!

In 2022 in the DC region, we have elections for the following elected bodies:

- **DC Council (Chair, Wards 1,3,5,6, At Large) and Mayor**
 - **Montgomery County Council and Executive**
 - **Prince George's Council and Executive**
 - **Arlington Board Member**

In 2021, WABA had a convening of local organizations to engage in 2022 elections.



Washington DC

WABA, Greater Greater Washington, Coalition for Smarter Growth and Black Millennials for Flint are Hosting candidate forums for

- **Ward 5 Council (moderated by Jordan Pascale)**
- **Council Chair and DC Mayor (moderated by Tom Sherwood)**

In addition to this, WABA will be sending a candidate questionnaire to all the candidates



Montgomery County Council

WABA, Young People for Progress, Coalition for Smarter Growth, Montgomery County Families for Safe Streets, Takoma Park Mobilization, Greater Greater Washington, Jews United for Justice will host a candidate forum for:

- **County Executive (moderated by Jordan Pascale)**
 - **At-Large and District Council seats**

In addition to this, WABA will be sending a candidate questionnaire to all the candidates



Other Races

WABA will be sending a candidate questionnaire to all the candidates in the Prince George's County Council and Executive races, as well as Arlington County Board race.



Transportation Equity Pledge

WABA and 18 other organizations will be launching a transportation equity pledge in the coming days. We will be asking candidates for all races throughout the region to sign the pledge. Stay tuned.



Question for the Audience

What policies would you put on a transportation equity pledge for candidates?



Methods to determine which races to be involved in

WABA is developing an election rubric to determine which races to be involved

Some factors:

- **Where do we have key projects?**
- **Which key votes are we missing?**
- **Are we factoring in equity into our election decide making? Are building powers in locations where we have historically struggled too?**
 - **Is there an education opportunity?**



Question for Audience?

What are some factors to determine elections to get involved in that you think are important for advocates to consider?



Tactics

501c3 tactics with all candidates:

- Forums and Questionnaires
- Pledges (you can't say anything negative about a candidate if they decide not to sign)
 - Bike rides with candidates
 - Conversation at a crash site

501c4 tactics:

- Endorsements
- Encouraging your supporters to run for partisan office



Tactics

Individuals:

- **Show up! Try to go to as many debates, forums or open meetings as you can to bring up issues that matter to you!**
- **Hold individual conversations with candidates, they can be between you and a candidate or your friends and a candidate.**

Questions or Comments?

- **Did I miss any tactics? Have you done any election tactic in the past?**
 - **How should advocates approach elections?**

Contact

Email: Jeremiah.Lowery@waba.org

Visit website: waba.org

