

## **Children to question candidates Wednesday**

Peter Ross, WZZM 2:33 p.m. EDT October 8, 2014



(Photo: WZZM)

GRAND RAPIDS (WZZM) - The candidates running for state House and Senate districts around Grand Rapids appear at a forum Wednesday night, October 8. What is unique is the questioners.

They will be a "diverse group of youth from Grand Rapids Public Schools", according to the sponsors, LINC Community Revitalization, Inc. and Michigan's Children, a statewide advocacy organization focused on public policy for children, youth and families.

This non-partisan community event takes place Wednesday, October 8 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Gallery 341 (next to LINC), 341 Hall St. SE., in Grand Rapids.

In a press release, organizers said:

The goal of this distinctive forum is to draw attention to issues that today's youths grapple with every day – and through better voter and candidate awareness, encourage a course for legislative solutions. Improving expanded learning opportunities, alternatives to high school graduation, college and career readiness, connections with family and community resources are just some of the areas linked to critical public policy decisions today.

The program will follow a standard format with all candidates given equal time to address the audience and respond to questions. While the event is being led by active youths from the community, the audience will consist of people of all voting ages.

"Even though youth cannot vote, connecting candidates and youth is another way to lift up the voice of our community and to promote civic engagement," said Ana Doonan, Senior Director for LINC Community Revitalization, Inc.

"We want individuals to be empowered, their voices to be heard, to get registered to vote and to model their participation for our youth. We also want our leaders to hear the voices of all those whose lives are impacted by their decisions," added Mrs. Doonan.

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