



What are hustings?

Hustings are open meetings held in the run-up to an election. They usually bring together candidates from across the political spectrum to discuss a range of issues or policies. Candidates will be asked questions by a chairperson, or by audience members, which means that local people have a chance to hear the views of their political candidates on different local and national issues.



Why attend a husting?

Hustings are the perfect opportunity to share your views with a candidate. And for candidates, hearing from local residents will demonstrate the importance of certain issues and help set their priorities if they get elected.



How can I take part?

You can find out where your local hustings are taking place and should be able to either show up or book a ticket easily. If you need any help, you can contact us at campaigns@independentage.org. We're more than happy to help you find the location information.



What can I say or do?

If you can ask a question at the husting, please ask in a considerate and respectful way. Below are some suggested questions you can ask in person or send to the chairperson beforehand.

- 1** Research from the charity Independent Age shows that 160,000 older people are living in poverty, which could rise to 180,000 by 2031. If you are elected, what will you do about this growing crisis? And do you support Independent Age's call for a Pensioner Poverty Strategy?
- 2** Independent Age's research shows that 64% of pensioners feel they are not represented by the Scottish Parliament, and more than half say they are not represented by MSPs. Given this lack of voice and representation, what would you do to ensure older people's interests are supported? And do you support calls for a Commissioner for Older People?

- 3** Older carers lose the money they receive through Carers Support Payment when they reach State Pension age, even though they carry on providing unpaid care. Do you think this is fair, or is it discrimination against older people? And would you support calls from Independent Age and others for a special recognition payment for carers from the Scottish Government?
- 4** Given that 37% (317,000) of older households in Scotland are in fuel poverty, do you accept that current schemes will not be enough to drive down fuel poverty rates and reach the legislative target of no more than 15% by 2030?