

The National Breast Cancer Coalition  
**END BREAST CANCER:  
VOTE!**



## TALKING POINTS

1

There are more than 3.1 million women and thousands of men living with breast cancer in the United States. In 2018, approximately 330,080 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in women and 2,550 new cases in men. An estimated 45,000 individuals will die of this disease.

2

We still do not know what causes breast cancer, how to prevent it, or how to stop it from metastasizing once it does.

3

The National Breast Cancer Coalition, founded in 1991, is a powerful voice, speaking for men and women across the country, demanding an end to breast cancer through the power of action and advocacy.

4

Breast cancer is a political issue: members of Congress and the Administration and all agencies have power to make a difference and save lives.

5

Investment of funds for research alone is not enough; we must make certain those funds are well spent, on research that matters. We must remove barriers to collaboration, accountability and transparency and change the infrastructure of research institutes to foster innovation, application of basic discovery and portfolio diversity. We must focus on saving lives.

6

We must bring together representatives from a wide variety of disciplines, including advocates, to leverage existing resources by identifying the tools, technology and ideas resulting from this nation's prior investments and apply them to ending breast cancer.

7

Elected officials must continue to support significant appropriations for the Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Breast Cancer Research Program.

8

All individuals must have access to patient centered, evidence based, high quality healthcare regardless of an ability to pay.

- 9 Individuals with metastatic breast cancer should not have to wait 5 months for Social Security Disability Coverage and 24 months for Medicare coverage once eligibility is determined.
- 10 Elected officials must work to preserve the Medicaid Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment program to ensure that low-income women screened and diagnosed with breast cancer through federal programs have access to the treatment they deserve.
- 11 Trained and educated breast cancer advocates should be included in the development of all public and private policy at the federal, state and local level that supports the delivery of healthcare, and in every aspect of decision making regarding government funded research that has an impact on breast cancer.

## QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES:

- 1 If elected, would you make ending breast cancer a public policy priority?
- 2 If elected, would you support guaranteed access to high quality health care for all regardless of one's ability to pay?
- 3 If elected, would you support the continued appropriations at significant levels for the Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Breast Cancer Research Program?
- 4 If elected, would you commit to doing all you can to pass legislation to end the 24 month waiting period for Medicare eligibility and the 5 month waiting period for Social Security Disability Insurance benefits for individuals with metastatic breast cancer?
- 5 If elected, would you commit to doing all you can to preserve the Medicaid Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program?
- 6 If elected, would you commit to ensuring the participation of educated patient advocates in science research and all levels of health care decision making?