

The Bernardsville News

7th District residents asked to weigh in on energy, environment ahead of 'Citizen Panel' Thursday

By New Jersey Hills Media Group Editor

March 22, 2022 - Residents are encouraged to participate in an online survey ahead of a unique town hall event with U.S. Rep. Tom Malinowski, D-7, this Thursday, March 24.



Malinowski and 7th Congressional District constituents will take part in a new kind of town hall meeting, called a "Citizen Panel Forum," in which constituents will discuss energy and environment issues with the Congressman. Results from the survey conducted with a representative sample of NJ-7 residents will be revealed for the first time to the congressman, his constituents and the media at the forum, which is hosted by a trio of nonpartisan organizations.

The forum will be held virtually over Zoom from 6:30 to 8 p.m. this Thursday.

While a representative sample of hundreds of NJ-7 residents have participated in the survey, all members of the public are encouraged to take the unique online survey.

Called a "policy-making simulation," the survey puts people in the shoes of policymakers by providing a briefing and asking them to evaluate pro and con arguments before weighing in with their recommendations. Residents of the 7th District who complete the survey will be invited to participate in the March 24 event.

Those who complete the policy-making simulation survey and attend will receive a \$25 stipend for their participation.

To participate in the survey, click here: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6790656/Malinowski-Clean-Energy-NJHills>.

Constituents will talk in small groups about the survey and the topic to begin Thursday's program. Survey results will then be revealed to the congressman and the assembled group, and data from the district will be compared to national results.

Malinowski and constituents will then engage in a moderated discussion with participants about the topic.

Bipartisan Initiative

The Citizen Panel Initiative is a joint project of three nonpartisan organizations: Civic Genius, Voice of the People (VOP); and the University of Maryland's Program for Public Consultation (PPC). The Citizen Panel Initiative does not take positions on policy positions but seeks to give citizens a more effective voice in the policymaking process.

A national initiative that provides a new way for voters to make their voices heard, the Citizen Panel tool can promote civil dialogue, identify common ground on key issues and help members of Congress better connect with their constituents.

The survey was developed by the University of Maryland's Program for Public Consultation, a nonpartisan public opinion research entity from the university's School of Public Policy.

Steven Kull, director of the University of Maryland Program for Public Consultation and President of Voice of the People, and Jillian Youngblood, executive director of Civic Genius, will join Malinowski and members of the public at the virtual event.