



CANDIDATE PARTICIPATION POLICY - LWVMI

All candidates who meet the following criteria will be invited to participate in LWVMI Voter Service activities.

In determining eligibility under the criteria, the burden of proof is on the candidate.

In order to have information in the **Voter Guide** and on the **Website**, a candidate must meet the following criteria:

Must be a legally qualified candidate for public office.

- Has publicly announced an intention to run for office.
- Is eligible under the applicable local, state, or federal laws to hold the office being sought.
- Either (a) has qualified to be on the ballot; or (b) has publicly committed to be a write-in candidate, is eligible to be a write-in and has made a substantial showing that the candidacy is bona fide.

Must be legally qualified by the deadline that has been established for response.

The above will also be the criteria for a candidate invited to a **General Election Forum/Debate** with this addition:

- For a candidate of a political party qualified to appear on the Primary ballot, the candidate must win the August Primary election for his or her respective party for the office which is the subject of the forum/debate or be nominated by his or her party for that office at its state convention.
- For a candidate who has obtained ballot status as an independent or third-party candidate for the office which is the subject of the forum/debate, the candidate must show significant **Voter Interest and Support**. This can be demonstrated by a 15% support level for that office in a reliable, nonpartisan, post-primary public opinion poll. If the contest is for a multi-seat position such as the Supreme Court, demonstration of a 10% support level suffices.

Local Leagues may adopt a different policy for candidate forums/debates that they arrange.

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