



Candidate Participation Policy

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:

- 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.
- Has qualified to be on the ballot.
- Has publicly committed to be a write-in candidate for office by filing a Declaration of Intent with the appropriate election official by 4:00 p.m. on the second Friday preceding the election.*
- Has made a substantial showing that the candidacy is bona fide.

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

- For a candidate of a political party qualified to appear on the General Election 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.

**The local clerk is responsible for notifying the precinct board of any write-in candidates who filed a Declaration of Intent by the filing deadline. A write-in vote cast for an individual who has not filed a Declaration of Intent does not count.*

Local Leagues may adopt a different policy for candidate forums/debates for candidates for local office.

Approved July 6, 2023