

Voter Service Policy Candidate Forum Policy League of Women Voters of Door County

The League of Women Voters of Door County is nonpartisan. As an organization, it does not support or oppose candidates for public office. We take action on public policy positions established through member study and agreement. * We are political, but we do not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

The League believes that political parties are essential to the American system of government and that the participation of informed citizens is beneficial to the political parties and to the system. Consequently, the League encourages its members as individuals to be active in the political parties, in finding and supporting candidates for public office, and in seeking election to public office.

All voter service activities must be authorized by the Leadership Team of the Door County League.

Candidate Forum Policy

These additional documents are used to implement the following policy:

- LWV DC Candidate Forum Agreement
- LWV DC Procedures
- LWV DC Non-Partisan Policy
- LWV DC Candidate Forum Checklist
- LWV DC Guide for Screening Questions
- LWV DC Guide for Moderators of Candidate Forums

1. The goal of League of Women Voter sponsored candidate forums is TO INFORM VOTERS about candidates and their stands on issues.
2. In order to maintain objectivity and credibility, League of Women Voter Candidate Forums are conducted in such a manner that all candidates have an equal opportunity to inform the electorate and state their positions. The candidates are not to engage with each other. The candidates are to speak only for themselves and not for the other candidates. Substitutes or spokespersons for candidates are not permitted.
3. The League of Women Voters has a strong reputation for nonpartisan candidate forums. It is important to protect this reputation. Organizations selected to co-sponsor candidate forums should be nonpartisan and unbiased; they should never endorse candidates or produce "score cards" for incumbent votes that might be perceived as partisan. Organizations interested in cosponsoring a forum shall apply in writing.
4. LWV will take the lead in organizing forums for which LWV is a sponsor, and any co-sponsoring organization(s) must be willing to follow LWV DC policy, procedures, and agreement. Potential forum co-sponsors for congressional and state-wide races must be approved by LWV Wisconsin.
5. LWV may be asked to moderate forums for other organizations. This is permissible as long as the forum is nonpartisan and follows LWV guidelines.

6. Forums for any state races should be conducted in coordination with LWV WI.
7. The LWVDC President, Voters Service chair, candidates' forum organizers, person making the introductory remarks, moderators and question screeners must not have any involvement with a campaign or political party during this election cycle.
8. All debates must follow the "Guidelines for State and Local League Debates" adopted in 2014 by LWV Wisconsin.
9. Requests for candidate forums must be made to the LWV DC within 12 business days after the filing deadline for the upcoming election.
10. If a forum is requested, candidates who meet the filing deadline will be invited to participate. Write-in candidates who wish to be included must have filed with the appropriate clerk and notified the LWV DC of their request to participate in the forum five business days prior to the forum.
11. At least two candidates running for a specific position must be willing to participate in order to conduct a forum. In county board supervisor and city council races this may include candidates for the same position but from different districts within the county/city.
12. A candidate must sign and return the LWV DC Candidate Forum Agreement in order to participate. If Agreement is not signed and returned by the designated date, a registered letter with the Agreement will be sent to the candidate.
13. Should a candidate not attend a scheduled forum, there will be no substitute or spokesperson allowed. A one to two-minute statement on behalf of the missing candidate/s will be read by a League member if submitted via phone, email or other print form.
14. The League reserves the right to screen questions to avoid duplication and personal attack on individuals. Questions are to address issues appropriate to that particular public office or referendum, not personalities. If the screeners do not understand the question, it will not be asked. Questions will be asked as written. Only written questions will be accepted. Questions can be submitted in advance. Questions will not be distributed to candidates in advance of the forum.
15. The LWV DC owns the copyright to any audio/visual recording created by its contracted recorder. Should there be a co-sponsor of the candidate forum, both groups own the copyright. Unauthorized videotaping falls under the rules of the FCC which requires that a debate must not be edited and must be broadcast in its entirety, either live or reasonably soon after it takes place.
16. The LWV of Door County Candidate Forums must not be referenced as a source in any campaign materials.