

## **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 activities must be authorized by the Board of Directors of the Door County League.

### **Candidate Forum Policy**

These additional documents are used to implement the following policy:

- LWV DC Candidate Forum Guidelines
  - LWV DC Procedures
  - LWV DC Non-Partisan Policy
  - LWV DC Candidate Forum Checklist
  - LWV DC Guide for Screening Questions
1. The goal of League of Women Voter sponsored candidates forums is TO INFORM VOTERS about candidates and their stands on issues.
  2. In order to maintain LWV objectivity and credibility with all candidates for public office, it is important that LWV Candidates Forums are conducted in such a manner that each candidate has an equal opportunity to inform the electorate and state his/her positions.
  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 to the Board of Directors.
  4. LWV should 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 guidelines. Potential forum co-sponsors for congressional and state wide races should 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 LWV President, Voters Service chair, candidates' forum organizers, person making the introductory remarks, moderators and question screeners do not have any involvement with a campaign or political party during this election cycle.
8. All debates should follow the "Guidelines for State and Local League Debates" adopted in 2014 by LWV Wisconsin.
9. 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 the appropriate clerk and notified the LWV DC of their request to participate in the forum five business days prior to the forum.
10. 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 could include candidates for the same position but from different districts within the county/city.
11. Participating candidates must sign and return the LWV DC candidate forum guideline agreement.
12. Should a candidate not attend a scheduled forum, there will be no substitute or spokesperson allowed. A 1-2 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.
13. 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. They can be submitted in advance. Questions will not be distributed to candidates in advance of the forum.
14. 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.