



**THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF DOOR COUNTY**

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Web Address: <http://doorcounty.wi.lwvnet.org/>

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

10-10

LWV is a nonpartisan political organization which encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

All voter service activities are implemented by members who are maintaining a nonpartisan posture during that particular election cycle. All activities must be authorized by the Board of Directors of the Door County League of Women Voters.

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

- The goal of the League of Women Voter sponsored candidates forums is TO INFORM VOTERS about candidates and their stands on issues. As an organization, the League of Women Voters does not support or oppose political parties or candidates for public office.
- 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.
- 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 perceived by the community as nonpartisan and unbiased; they should never endorse candidates or produce "score cards" for incumbent votes that might be perceived as partisan.
- 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.
- All debates should follow the "Guidelines for State and Local League Debates" adopted 3/08 by LWV Wisconsin. In particular, there should be no "empty chair" debates in which only one candidate is present.

- LWV may be asked to moderate forums for other organizations. This is permissible as long as the forum is nonpartisan and follows LWV guidelines.
- Forums for any state races should be conducted in coordination with LWV WI.
- 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.**
- In county board supervisor and city council races, at least two candidates from contested districts must be willing to participate in order to conduct a forum.
- If a forum is requested, candidates who meet the filing deadline will be invited to participate; write-in candidates will not be included in forums.
- 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.
- 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. Candidates are NOT allowed to use audio or video from the forum in or for commercial advertising.
- Participating candidates must give written acceptance of LWV DC candidate forum guidelines.