

League of Women Voters of Minneapolis 2009 Criteria for Inclusion in Candidate Forums

These criteria are based on guidelines developed by the LWVMN and the LWVUS, and on the legal requirements of the Federal Elections Commission (FEC), Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

The LWVMpls' purpose in putting forward these criteria is to provide Minneapolis voters with the opportunity to hear significant candidates discuss issues of importance face-to-face.

To be invited to participate in a candidate forum sponsored or co-sponsored by the LWVMpls, a candidate must have:

1. Filed for office;
2. Met all state and local requirements to hold that office;
3. Been endorsed by a major political party, as defined in Minnesota Statute 200.02, subdivision 7.0.

-or-

Be a minor party, independent, or unendorsed candidate who has met criteria 1 and 2 *and* has demonstrated clear and public support through evidence of a formal campaign effort to reach voters throughout the city or district.

Note: "Clear and public support..." can be demonstrated by supplying proof of one or more of the following:

- A formal organizational structure, e.g., campaign headquarters, phone, campaign, manager, treasurer;
- Significant financial support, e.g., financial records or reports showing significant number of contributors and total amount of contributions;
- Significant efforts to communicate to voters, e.g., city- or district-wide literature, media ads, signs, volunteer work.

The League of Women Voters of Minneapolis conducts all forums, panels and other multi-candidate events in accordance with FEC regulations for debates. The FEC regulates the conduct of corporate, labor and nonprofit organizations – including both 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations – in **federal** elections. FEC regulations define a debate as an event that:

- Includes at least two candidates;
- Is staged in a way that does not promote or advance one candidate over another; and
- Allows the candidates to appear concurrently, in face-to-face confrontations, with opportunities to respond to each other.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, volunteer organization organized at the local, state and national level to encourage informed and active participation in government. While we, as a League, do study and take stands on issues, we DO NOT endorse or support political parties or candidates. The views expressed at a candidate or community forum are those of the candidates, not those of the League of Women Voters, and the sponsorship of a forum is not an endorsement, by the sponsor, of any candidate.
