



## 2023 CANDIDATE FORUM RULES

The League of Women Voters sponsors candidate forums to provide the public with an opportunity to hear candidates discuss the issues that are important to members of the public. The League is a nonpartisan organization that does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. The views expressed in each forum are those of the candidates, not those of the League of Women Voters.

### Candidate Attendance

- The League invites all candidates that are listed with the Secretary of State's office at the end of the filing period to participate in the forum. All candidates are asked to confirm their attendance prior to the forum.
- Candidates who commit to attending the forum and are unable to attend need to contact the forum host as soon as possible, but at least one hour before the forum.
- The League asks all candidates to arrive at the forum site at least 15 minutes prior to the start to review forum rules and check that technology is working.
- Forums will be up to one hour in length. However, for forums with more than 7 candidates, the time may be extended to 75 or 90 minutes.
- All candidates will be asked at the start of the forum if they have withdrawn from the race. If a candidate has withdrawn from the election, they will not be included in the forum.

### Forum Structure:

- Forums will be held in person, with no audience. They will be recorded and posted on the [LWV-WBLA Website](#). LWV posts complete, unedited recordings of forums. Editing is authorized only for official media reporting. Excerpts or edited clips of candidate forums may not be used for partisan or political purposes.
- Cable stations may also replay the forums.
- Some forums may be live-streamed. Candidates will be notified if live streaming will be available for their forum.
- A League host will preside over the forum and will review forum procedures with the candidates 15 minutes prior to the forum.
- A League moderator will explain the procedures, pose forum questions, and ask the candidates to introduce themselves and indicate the office they are running for.
- The starting speaker will alternate for each question.
- Candidates will have up to 1 minute to answer a question and a rebuttal/follow up time of 1 minute, if desired. If there are 7 or more candidates at the forum, there will be no rebuttals.
- Candidates will have 1 minute for closing remarks.
- A League timer will hold up signs indicating *30 seconds*, *15 seconds*, then *STOP*.
- Props and signs are not allowed at the forum. Forum hosts will ask any violating parties to remove any such items.

### Forum Questions

- Questions for the forum may be submitted online prior to the forum on the [LWV-WBLA Website](#).
- Questions submitted will be screened by the League to ensure that they are applicable to all candidates, are not personal in nature, and are relevant to this forum. All questions become the property of the League.