



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE EDUCATION FUND

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GUIDELINES

Local League Chapter Forums for Local Candidates
Adopted by the LWVME Education Fund 3/24/18

Local League of Women Voters chapters in Maine may sponsor non-partisan candidate forums for local candidate races for elected office. Such forums will provide fair and impartial treatment of candidates, will not promote or advance one candidate over another, and will make no reference to an issue advocacy position taken by the League of Women Voters of Maine.

The forums are designed to meet four goals:

1. to educate the public about the issues in the campaign,
2. to provide an opportunity for voters to hear candidates discuss those issues face-to-face,
3. to stimulate public interest and participation in the elections, and
4. to provide an opportunity for the candidates to engage their constituents.

To be invited to participate in a locally sponsored candidate forum, a candidate must meet the legal qualifications to hold office with sufficient signatures so that his/her name will be printed on the ballot. Invited candidates must formally accept the invitation to participate in a forum either by email or by sending a letter of intent no later than two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled forum.

If one or more of the invited candidates in a contested race declines to attend (or fails to appear at) the forum, the forum may go forward if at least two candidates for the local office accept the invitation and attend the forum. In an uncontested race, it is up to the local League to decide to go forward. Local offices are broadly defined as School Board/Committee, City/Town Council, County Commissioner, Water Board, Sewer Board, Sheriff, District Attorney or any other locally elected official, board or committee. The local League chapter may permit substitutes or stand-ins for invited candidates, at its discretion.

Candidate forums may be co-sponsored with other organizations that are non-partisan and do not endorse candidates.