

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ILLINOIS EDUCATION FUND CANDIDATE PARTICIPATION POLICY

Candidates' forums or debates sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Illinois Education Fund are held to provide a nonpartisan venue for thoughtful discussion of important public policy issues. The League also seeks to stimulate voter interest and participation in the electoral process with these events. Candidates invited to participate are those who have demonstrated that there is significant voter interest in their candidacies.

A candidate may participate if he or she meets each of the following criteria:

1. **CONSTITUTIONAL ELIGIBILITY** – Candidates must meet the requirements of the Illinois and the United States constitutions.
2. **FORMAL CAMPAIGN** – Candidates must show evidence that a formal campaign is being waged, including campaign headquarters, campaign staff/volunteers, position papers, web site and campaign appearances.
3. **VOTER INTEREST** – Candidates must demonstrate that there is significant voter interest and support of their candidacies as evidenced by receipt of ten percent (10%) of support in one or more statewide nonpartisan public opinion polls conducted not more than thirty days prior to the election and at least five days prior to the debate.

Acceptable polling procedures:

- ✓ Polls must include all candidates who are listed by the Illinois State Board of Elections at the time of the poll for that office.
- ✓ Polls must have all candidates compared on an equal basis. An acceptable poll will not have one individual compared to another individual when more than two candidates are running for an office.
- ✓ Nonpartisan polls using methodology that employs a random statewide sample of adults 18 and over and are representative of the voting public. Random digit dialing (RDD) procedures that include all telephone numbers, listed and unlisted, are acceptable.

If there are no acceptable polls within the 30 day period established above, the League of Women Voters of Illinois has the discretion to consider a poll listing all eligible candidates, no more than 60 days prior to the election, as criteria for establishing candidate participation by voter interest.

The League of Women Voters of Illinois Education Fund reserves the right to determine that the above criteria have been met.