



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF METRO ST. LOUIS

GROUND RULES FOR VIRTUAL CANDIDATE FORUMS

The League of Women Voters of St. Louis believes one of the best ways for voters to learn about people seeking election is to hear candidates speak and answer questions in a public forum. The League provides this service as part of our mission to encourage citizen participation in government.

THE SPONSOR WILL:

- ★ Select date and time for the forum.
- ★ Invite all candidates who are certified to appear on the ballot to participate in the forum. The League does not require that all candidates participate but there must be at least two participants. If a candidate cannot attend, a representative can make an opening statement but cannot respond to questions.

THE CANDIDATES WILL:

- ★ Have 2 minutes each for an opening statement.
- ★ Have 1 minute to answer each question.
- ★ Have the right to speak to all questions including those posed specifically to another candidate.
- ★ Have 2 minutes each for a closing statement.
- ★ Focus their remarks on what they believe. They will not refer to their opponents, the opponent's positions or remarks. The purpose is to present their own positions.
- ★ Remain respectful to all participants and the audience. Anyone who violates this rule may be muted.
- ★ Campaign banners, clothing or buttons should not be visible during the forum.

THE AUDIENCE WILL:

- ★ Submit questions in advance to an on-line site designated by the League.
- ★ Questions should be of general interest and cover issues, not personalities.

THE TIMEKEEPER WILL:

- ★ Time all opening and closing statements.
- ★ Time candidate answers to questions, allowing 1 minute per response.
- ★ Indicate 30 seconds time remaining with a yellow card.
- ★ Indicate time expired with a red card.

THE MODERATOR WILL:

- ★ Explain the procedure (ground rules).
- ★ Introduce the candidates.
- ★ Read to the candidates the questions submitted by the audience.
- ★ Retain the option to combine questions which are similar or address the same topic.
- ★ Insure that each candidate has an equal opportunity to answer questions.
- ★ Enforce the ground rules.
- ★ Determine which questions will be asked and attempts in good faith to cover areas of interest expressed by the audience.

NOTE: This meeting may be livestreamed or recorded to post on web sites and social media.