

Candidate Debate Ground Rules – Without a Live Audience

Source: *League of Women Voters of Coos County (LWVCC)*
League of Women Voters of Oregon

1. **Candidates have signed** the *Confirmation, Acceptance and Agreement to Comply* form which states that they have read, understand, and will abide by our ground rules and debate policies.
2. **Cell phones** will be silenced.
3. **The debate will be recorded** only by League authorized media. The recording will be available for viewing on the League's website and through Coos Community Media Center and other League authorized media. No part of the recording may be used for promotion or abasement of a candidate or issue. News media may broadcast neutral non-partisan clips of the event. The League prohibits any other recording by cell phone or other medium.
4. **The LWVCC records and retains a full unedited copy** of all Candidate events. If any portion(s) of the recording are redistributed out of context to make a candidate appear to say something that was not said, or are edited specifically to make a candidate look bad or in any way altered in appearance, then the LWVCC will alert the media, provide the unedited video for comparison, and file appropriate complaints with any applicable governing authority, or—dependent upon the egregiousness if fraud is involved—alert local law enforcement.
5. **No campaign banners**, signs, or clothing promoting a candidate (such as hats or tee shirts) are allowed during any debate.
6. **No visual aids** may be displayed during the debate. Candidates may use personal notes.
7. Candidates **will not engage in personal attacks**, will not defame the character of their opponents, and will not deliberately falsify the facts.
8. Candidates **will remain** at their designated places on camera at all times during the debate.
9. Candidates **may not interrupt** one another.
10. **Time limits** will be strictly observed. Candidates should stop speaking at the end of the current sentence when out of allotted time.
11. **Questions**, including those which candidates wish to address to each other, may be sent in advance to the email account (lwvcoos@gmail.com). Prior to the debate, the LWVCC will review all questions to ensure that they are clear, are not duplicates, do not include a personal attack, and address relevant issues.

12. **All written questions will be destroyed** at the end of the debate to protect anonymity.
13. **The moderator has the authority to enforce time limits**, and also to interrupt proceedings to enforce ground rules.