



The League of Women Voters of Oakland

Statement of Non-Partisanship

The League of Women Voters of Oakland encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League never supports or opposes candidates for elective office or political parties, but sometimes takes positions on ballot measures.

Candidates' Forum Ground Rules*

- All of the candidates for the featured office will be invited.
- A format will be chosen which will give each of the candidates a chance to speak with time limits and which will be fair to all of the candidates.
- There will be a timekeeper to monitor time limits. Upon time limit expiration, candidates will relinquish the floor.
- Candidates are expected to maintain polite and civil discourse. Any incivility will be stopped by the moderator and may result in exclusion from future forums.
- Candidates who choose not, or are not able, to participate in the forum may not send a substitute, but may submit a brief statement, which will be read by the moderator.
- Written questions from anyone present will be screened by a team from the League to ensure a range of topics and issues. Each candidate will have the chance to answer each question; there will be no rebuttals.
- The League members who serve as moderator, interviewer, question sorter, etc., will not be announced supporters of or contributors to any candidate or to issues that any of the candidates is strongly identified with. For City of Oakland races, they will also be from a different election district than the candidates.
- No candidate literature/paraphernalia will be displayed or distributed in the meeting room. This means that candidates and their supporters are asked not to wear any campaign badges, tee shirts, etc. during the forum. After the forum, candidate literature may be placed on the tables provided outside the meeting room. The intent of these provisions is to preserve the decorum and neutrality of the forum so that attendees and online/TV viewers can focus on the issues.
- The League of Women Voters of Oakland assures candidates that it is committed to having every race on YouTube, KTOP TV (City of Oakland cable channel), Votersedge.org, and lwvoakland.org.
- In forums in which the League is the lead sponsor, we reserve the right to have the final say on ground rules. In those initiated by other organizations where the League is a co-sponsor, we reserve the right to publicly disassociate ourselves from any forum that is not non-partisan.

** Candidates not adhering to the forum ground rules will be considered out of order. Penalties may include immediate loss of microphone privileges and exclusion from future League sponsored forums.*