

League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham, and Chatham Counties Candidates Forum Information, Rules and Format

The League of Women Voters is a non partisan political organization that was founded 92 years ago to encourage informed citizen participation in government. It has sponsored numerous candidate debates and forums at the national, state and local level. Since 1976, the League of Women Voters Education Fund has sponsored at least 24 presidential primaries, all nationally televised. In 1992, state and local Leagues sponsored more debates and forums than any other organization in the United States. The LWV does not endorse, oppose, or support candidates or political parties. It is the intent of this candidate forum to provide an opportunity for the candidates to provide their views on important issues facing Chatham County citizens.

The public holds the League in high regard for its work on candidate forums and for its commitment to follow best practices to ensure a fair and well executed forum. The forum rules in this agreement are designed to continue this respected tradition.

Board of Commissioner District 1 and District 2 Candidates Forum This forum is open to the general public

Date of Candidate Forum: Saturday, October 20, 2012

Time of Candidate Forum: 2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Candidates must arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the forum time to receive instructions on the microphones to be used, to draw for their speaking positions for their opening and closing remarks, and to ask any last minute questions.

Venue of Candidate Forum: Multipurpose Room, Bldg. 2, Central Carolina Community College, Pittsboro campus

Candidate Participants: Sally Kost (District 1 incumbent), Mike Cross (District 2 incumbent), Donald Shilesky (District 1) and William Crawford (District 2)

Questions for Candidates: Questions will be created by the LWV. Additional questions will be selected and reviewed by LWV from submitted questions from Facebook prior to forum. Several questions may be used from the audience, which will be reviewed by the LWV prior to submitting to the moderator.

Campaign literature: No campaign literature, signs, candidate buttons, etc. will be allowed in the forum room. **A table will be provided for that purpose in the hall outside forum room.** Candidates' staff should be available at their respective table to greet and answer questions of the public who come to their table prior to the start of the forum or after the close of the forum.

Media

1. LWV will announce the forum through press releases to local media and the News and Observer and the media (print, radio, and TV) will be invited to attend to obtain the broadest possible coverage.
2. The LWV will provide local online community calendars information to post about the forum and the LWV's website and Facebook page will carry information about the forum.

3. LWV guidelines for media outlets broadcasting events will include a statement that any use of forum tapes or recordings requires the express written approval of the League; and that the League will only allow audio and/or video of the forum to be broadcast in its entirety, except by media reporting on the forum. A copyright notice will appear on all copies of tapes, DVDs and transcripts asserting copyright ownership by the League if made other than by media outlets.
4. Because YouTube content can be posted in 20 minute increments, which violates the mandate that video must be broadcast in its entirety, no DVD or tape knowingly will be released by the LWV for YouTube purposes unless the forum is divided into segments, labeled for example 1 of 6, 2 of 6, or 3 of 6, etc., so that the public is aware that full viewing is possible.
5. No flash cameras and no motor driven cameras will be allowed during the debate except by the press.

Forum Format:

The forum will be staged in a way that does not promote or advance one candidate over another, allows the candidates to appear concurrently in a medium where ideas and views on particular issues are exchanged.

Candidates:

1. Both candidates for a district seat must be present for the forum to continue for that particular district seat. If only one candidate is present for a district seat, then the forum time for that district seat will be canceled.
2. NO, surrogate(s) may stand in for a candidate in the forum. The public does not hire surrogates through their votes, and surrogates cannot be held accountable as the elected official.
3. Candidates may not bring written material to their forum table but will be given a tablet of paper and pencil for any notes that they may want to make during the forum.
4. Water will be provided at the forum table for the candidates.
5. No candidate will be allowed to use or edit media footage of the forum for campaign purposes. The content of the forum belongs to the League. Any request for a tape or DVD made at the forum must be made in writing. The League must approve any release of a tape or DVD of the forum in writing and will only do so if the forum is broadcast in its entirety.

Format:

1. At the beginning of the forum, the moderator will announce that all cell phones, cameras, and any unauthorized audio/video recording devices be turned off. The League cannot guarantee that someone won't capture some video or audio without its knowledge.
2. The rules for the forum will be explained at the opening of the forum and then each candidate will be introduced by the moderator. The audience will be asked to hold their applause until the end of the forum.
3. Candidate speaking order will be determined by a draw. Candidates will have 30 seconds for their opening statement. A separate draw will be used for the closing statements.

4. The forum will follow a traditional question and answer with timed responses format. The moderator will address a question to a candidate and the candidate has a set time to respond.
5. Question response times will vary from 1 to 3 minutes to suit questions and a candidate will be allowed to finish a sentence, once started, but strict time limits will be enforced. The moderator will let the candidates know the time allowed for each response.
6. A candidate will be allowed to finish a sentence, once started. If a candidate does not use all the time allotted for a response, it cannot be applied to any other purpose or question.
7. Each candidate will be allowed four 30-second rebuttals during the forum. The candidate can choose not to use the full 30-second rebuttal time, but any remaining amount of his or her rebuttal time will be lost and cannot be carried over into another rebuttal time frame.
8. Cards will be used by a time keeper to alert the moderator and candidates as to when they have 15 seconds remaining for their response and when to stop. The moderator will have the responsibility for enforcing time limits.
9. The moderator will have the authority to interrupt the proceedings to enforce the ground rules and format that were agreed to by the candidates and the LWV.
10. A sixty-second closing statement will be allowed each candidate at the end of the forum so that the candidates can sum up their positions, tie up loose ends and answer any charges that came up during the forum. Candidates should give spontaneous closing statements, related to what has been said during the debate.
11. The candidates will not interrupt one another during the forum.