



WMHT Public Media

4 Global View, Troy, NY 12180-8375
(518) 880-3400 | wmht.org

Congressional Debate Guidelines

WMHT has a long history of producing programming to help citizens make informed choices on important issues of public concern, and during election years those choices include which candidate they will support when they go to the polls.

Our goal is to provide voters with the best opportunity to draw clear distinctions among leading candidates, so that voters are well informed on election day. Debates must include at least two candidates and will be structured to ensure that they do not promote or advance one candidate over another. Given the limited time allotted for each debate it may not be practical to have all candidates participate. To ensure that invited candidates are actively campaigning and have demonstrated a level of public support, WMHT has established a set of objective criteria to determine which candidates will be invited.

To qualify for participation candidates must demonstrate that they have met the following criteria 15 days before the scheduled debate.

- Be legally qualified to appear on the ballot
- Create a legal campaign committee regulated under state or federal law
- Demonstrate a level of public support by receiving 5% or more in an independent, non-partisan poll conducted within the last six months
- File a campaign finance report showing contributions from at least 50 donors.
- Maintain a campaign website outlining the candidates' background on issues of importance.
- Demonstrate community engagement by hosting a minimum of 12 campaign-related events, news conferences or neighborhood meetings in the last three months.

If there is no public polling available candidates may qualify by meeting all the other criteria.

