



Election Forums

As part of our Voter Service mission to provide unbiased, factual information about candidates and ballot measures, the LWV of Bellingham/Whatcom County sponsors election forums. Our goal is to help citizens make their own choices and decisions when casting their ballot and to encourage them to vote.

In compliance with the League of Women Voters non-partisan policy, the League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. The forums will be conducted in such a manner as to avoid creating the impression that the League favors one candidate over another.

1. Questions prepared by the Forum Question Committee should include input from diverse voices and reflect various concerns and perspectives in our community.
2. All candidates participating in the forums have equal time to speak and they are all asked to respond to the same questions.
3. The League endeavors to foster a civil discussion of the issues at these events.
4. Forums are open to the public free of charge and advertised widely in the media.
5. Every effort is made to provide live recording of the events.
6. The Voter Service Chair and committee shall recommend which primary and general election races to include in the forums.
7. Detailed guidelines and ground rules for election forums shall reflect the League's mission and will be maintained by the Voter Service committee.
8. The League will not present a forum with a single candidate when the office has more than one candidate listed on the ballot for that office.
9. **In races for local and State positions only**, if a candidate fails to appear or cancels at the last moment, leaving other candidate(s) for the respective office ready to participate, the scheduled program will proceed. An announcement made during candidate introductions will not include an explanation for the reason the absent candidate is not participating. **If a candidate for a federal office fails to appear leaving only one candidate, the scheduled program will be cancelled in accordance with Federal Election Commission (FEC) and Federal Communication Commission (FCC) rules.**

(Adopted & Board Approved August 8, 2022)