

GENERAL ELECTION LETTER

Name

Address

City State

Date XX, 2018

Dear (candidate):

The Idaho Debates partnership will again be co-sponsoring debates to be broadcast on Idaho Public Television for candidates for statewide offices and U.S. Congressional seats in the 2018 General Election. The purpose of the debates is to inform the public on the views of the candidates. We do not support or oppose political parties or candidates.

In our debates, we will be including candidates who are conducting active campaigns. We have established criteria for participation, following guidance in the U. S. Supreme Court decision *Arkansas Public Television v. Ralph P. Forbes* (96-779) and will limit debate participation to candidates who are conducting active campaigns.

Candidates who have won their 2018 primary election contests are deemed to be active candidates.

Those who were unopposed in the primary election and are not incumbents are asked to submit evidence of an active campaign. This material is to be submitted to Idaho Public Television by **4:45 p.m. September 4, 2018.**

We expect to hold the debates in Boise (date range?)

The criteria for general election debate consideration are:

- Is the person in fact a legally qualified candidate and appearing on the ballot for a particular office?
- Are there objective indicia of an active campaign throughout the state or district during the campaign cycle. (Examples: Having a campaign headquarters outside one's home,

making appearances, being covered in the press, filing campaign funding reports, distributing campaign material, having paid or volunteer campaign staff, phone banks, substantial volunteer efforts, touring, door knocking, advertising, speeches, throughout the state or district during this campaign cycle.)

- Is there a demonstrable level of public interest and support in the candidacy? (Examples: Campaign contributions, turnout at events, news coverage, endorsements, independent professional polling.)

The committee will consider all these factors in evaluating whether a candidate meets the active campaign standard. Please feel free to submit any additional evidence of an active campaign.

In addition, please provide a color head shot, preferably a color jpeg digital picture for our election/debate website, your campaign mailing address, telephone number, email address, cell phone number and, if applicable, fax number.

Please mail or hand-deliver your submission to the attention of Melissa Davlin or Seth Ogilvie, Idaho Public Television, 1455 North Orchard St, Boise ID 83706. The material must be at Idaho PTV no later than **4:45 p.m., September 4, 2018**. If you hand-deliver your material, please ask for a time-stamped receipt.

You may e-mail your submission to mail@idahodebates.org, and meet the same deadline.

The committee will decide whether or not to invite you to participate in the televised debate based on the material you submit. The more evidence of an active campaign you submit, the more likely you are to be included. The sponsors consider failure to submit any material at all as refusal to debate, and that information will be reported to the public.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Melissa Davlin at Idaho Public Television, phone 208-410-7239, Seth Ogilvie at Idaho Public Television, phone 208-850-5014 or e-mail mail@idahodebates.org. Once the committee has made its determinations, I will mail invitations and the debate format.

Best wishes on your campaign. We look forward to seeing your submission.

Sincerely,

Melissa Davlin and Seth Ogilvie, Idaho Public Television

Note: Please return the enclosed postcard as soon as possible. It lets us know that you received the information.