



**WMHT Public Media**  
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## **WMHT/Times Union Debate Inclusion Criteria**

All legally qualified campaigns will be given the opportunity prior to a planned debate to provide evidence of their status as a newsworthy candidate. Among the questions that may be asked of the candidate:

- Does the candidate actively campaign for election to the office across the jurisdiction he or she is seeking to represent? Indicators of an active campaign include:
  - Creating a legal campaign committee regulated under state or federal law.
  - Establishing a campaign headquarters and telephone number staffed by an active staff, paid or volunteer.
  - Articulating views on principal issues that affect the electorate by issuing position papers or through an active, accessible Internet site.
  - Making regular personal campaign appearances across the jurisdiction.
  - Engaging in active marketing and/or advertising efforts.
  - Securing financial resources beyond the candidate's own and/or engaging in active fundraising activity
  - Participating in routine and sustained contact with news media in the jurisdiction.
- Does the candidate provide evidence of significant initial voter interest through a sizable volunteer effort, or significant turnouts at campaign stops, broad based financial support, or substantial news coverage?
- Does the candidate demonstrate factual evidence that would include at least 5% voter preference in an independent poll or receipt of 5% of the total votes cast in the primary election?
- Does the candidate provide evidence of popular support through service in a state or local elected office during the last five years within the candidate's current jurisdiction?
- Is the candidate a representative of a nationally recognized political party, and does the candidate have the financial and logistical backing of that party?

