



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE

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## **LWVME & LWVME ED. FUND CANDIDATE DEBATE POLICY** (Amended and re-adopted by the League and by the Ed. Fund 4/8/2010)

The League of Women Voters of Maine intends to sponsor nonpartisan candidate debates for the offices of Governor of the State of Maine and United States House of Representatives in the fall of 2010.

The debates are designed to meet four goals:

1. to educate the public about the issues in the campaigns,
2. to provide an opportunity for voters to hear candidates discuss those issues face-to-face,
3. to stimulate public interest and participation in the elections and
4. to provide an opportunity for the candidates to engage their constituents.

We believe that these purposes are best served by including those candidates with significant district-wide voter support and interest. After careful consideration, the League of Women Voters of Maine has adopted criteria it believes are nonpartisan, capable of objective application, and understandable to candidates and the public.

To be invited to participate in LWVME 2010 debates for United States House of Representatives or Governor of the State of Maine a candidate must:

1. win the nomination of his/her party in the primary election

**or**

2. receive support of at least two (2) percent of those polled in an independent, credible, district-wide professional poll. Such a poll must be taken after the primary election and its results must be available on or before August 30, 2010. The poll cannot be one commissioned by a party or a candidate.

Invited candidates must sign a letter of intent to participate within fourteen days of receipt of the invitation. If the debate is to be televised, invited candidates must sign the TV agreement prior to the debate or they will not be able to participate—no exceptions. If one or more of the invited candidates declines to attend (or fails to appear at) the debate, the debate may go forward only if at least two of the candidates for that office accept the invitation and attend the debate.

There will be no substitutes or stand-ins for the candidates.