

## **Guidelines for the League of Women Voters of Centre County (LWVCC) Candidates' Nights and Voter's Guides**

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

The following guidelines have been developed to establish the League of Women Voters of Centre County (LWVCC) practices regarding Candidates' Nights and the Voter's Guides for both Primary and General Elections.

For the purpose of these guidelines, the LWVCC defines a "candidate" as an individual who has done any one of the following:

- successfully filed a petition or nomination papers to appear on the ballot with the Centre County Board of Elections or with the Pennsylvania Department of State Bureau of Elections;
- has received the nomination of his or her political party; or
- has informed the LWVCC in writing more than 8 weeks prior to an election of his or her intention to conduct a write-in campaign.

### **Candidates' Nights**

The LWVCC customarily hosts a Candidates' Night prior to each Primary and General Election. Only candidates in contested races will be invited to participate in a LWVCC Candidates' Night.

Candidates for the following elective offices will be invited to participate in LWVCC Candidates' Nights:

- U.S. House of Representatives
- Pennsylvania State Senate
- Pennsylvania State House of Representatives
- Centre County Commissioner
- Centre County Judge
- Centre County District Attorney

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- Centre County Row Offices, including Controller, Coroner, Prothonotary, Register of Wills, Recorder of Deeds, Sheriff and Treasurer
- Centre County District Magistrate
- Municipal Council or Board of Supervisors in a Centre County municipality with a population of 6,000 or more\*
- Board of School Directors in a Centre County School District with a population of 20,000 or more Centre County residents\*

\* Population data shall be acquired from the Centre County Planning Office

If a request is made for candidates for an elected office within Centre County to be invited to participate in a Candidates' Night, even if the population standards cited above are not met, the LWVCC may grant the request depending on available resources. Such requests must be made no later than 7 days after the deadline to file nomination petitions (in the Primary) or nomination papers (in the General Election).

Candidates invited to participate in a Candidates' Night may be invited by U.S. mail, e-mail or by phone. The LWVCC will make every reasonable effort to see that all eligible candidates are invited.

Invitations to LWVCC Candidates' Nights will be issued at least 30 days prior to the date of the event. Candidates will be asked to RSVP at least 14 days prior to the date of the event. The LWVCC will maintain an email address, which the Candidates' Night coordinator may use for candidate responses if he/she so desires. The Candidates' Night coordinator may also choose to have candidate responses sent to the Coordinator's personal email address.

Should a candidate not be able to attend a LWVCC Candidates' Night, no "substitutes" will be allowed to take part in the event. To allow for maximum visibility of the event, Candidates' Nights will be cablecast by C-Net and videos will be posted on the LWVCC website.

### **LWVCC Voter's Guide**

The LWVCC prepares and publishes a Voter's Guide prior to each Primary and General Election. This guide is printed and distributed in cooperation with the Centre Daily Times. In addition, other media may be utilized.

Candidates in both contested and uncontested races will be invited to submit information for the Voter's Guide for both Primary and General Elections.

The LWVCC will invite candidates for the following elective offices to submit information for the Voter's Guide.

- Pennsylvania State Senate
- Pennsylvania State House of Representatives
- Centre County Commissioner
- Centre County Judge
- Centre County District Attorney
- Centre County District Magistrate
- Centre County Controller
- Centre County Coroner
- Centre County Prothonotary
- Centre County Recorder of Deeds
- Centre County Register of Wills
- Centre County Sheriff
- Centre County Treasurer
- Municipal Council or Board of Supervisors in a Centre County municipality with a population of 4,000 or more\*
- Board of School Directors in a Centre County School District with a population of 20,000 or more Centre County residents\*

\* Population data shall be acquired from the Centre County Planning Office

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Information for the Voter's Guide from statewide or national candidates collected by the League of Women Voters via [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) may be included in the information sent to the local media.

Candidates will be allowed at least 10 days to complete and return their Voter's Guide Questionnaire.

The publication of the LWVCC Voter's Guide is a collaborative effort between the LWVCC and the Centre Daily Times. While it is the policy of the LWVCC not to edit or censure any candidate's statement, we recognize that the Centre Daily Times and other media maintain editorial control over content, including the Voter's Guide. It is the position of the LWVCC not to intervene in the editorial decisions of local media.

AMENDED – 24 March 2020