



NYC's Official 2013 Debate Program Participant Criteria for Primary Mayoral Debates

Citywide candidates who participate in the voluntary matching public funds program and meet the below criteria must attend the mayoral debates. Debate Program sponsors may invite non-participating candidates who meet the same criteria.

There are two debates per office, per election (Primary Election and General Election). The second of these two debates is reserved for "leading contenders," which are determined by non-partisan, objective, and non-discriminatory criteria agreed upon by the Campaign Finance Board and the Debate Program sponsors. If only one candidate qualifies for a debate, no debate is held.

The following details the non-partisan, objective, and non-discriminatory criteria that candidates must meet in order to participate in the mayoral debates.

Mayor- First Primary Election Debate

- Must be on the ballot as of the date of the Debate¹ AND
- Must meet all other minimum criteria under the Campaign Finance Act (the "Act")² AND
 - (a) Must have raised and spent \$50,000 in compliance with the Act by the end of the last disclosure period prior to the Debate, which is Monday, August 5, 2013, and reported the information by the last filing date prior to the Debate, which is Friday, August 9, 2013³ AND
 - (b) Must have achieved at least 2%⁴ in at least one of the following polls:
 - the most recent voter preference poll conducted by Marist, or
 - the most recent voter preference poll conducted by QuinnipiacIn order to be used in this Section (b), the poll must:
 - have a margin of error of 4.5% or less,

¹ Admin. Code § 3-709.5(1)(a).

² Admin. Code § 3-709.5(5)(b)(i).

³ *Id.*

⁴ A candidate will not be deemed to have achieved this threshold by adding the margin of error to his or her poll result. For example, a candidate who achieves 0.5% in a poll with a margin of error of 1.5% will not be deemed to have met the criteria of this Section (b).

- include all of the candidates on the ballot (for the election for which the poll is conducted) at the same time the poll is taken, and
- be conducted between the date of the ballot certification and one calendar week prior to the Debate.

If no such poll exists, this Section (b) may not be used for Debate eligibility for any candidate and Section (a) will be used to determine Debate eligibility for all candidates on the ballot for the election for which the Debate is being conducted.

Mayor- Leading Contender Primary Election Debate

- Must be on the ballot as of the date of the Debate⁵ AND
- Must meet all other minimum criteria under the Act⁶ AND
 - (a) Must have raised 20% of the Primary Election spending limit for mayoral candidates (specifically, must have raised \$1,285,200.00) in compliance with the Act by the end of the last disclosure period prior to the Debate, which is Monday, August 26, 2013, and reported the information by the last filing date prior to the Debate, which is Friday, August 30, 2013⁷ OR
 - (b) Must have raised and spent \$250,000 in compliance with the Act by the end of the last disclosure period prior to the Debate, which is Monday, August 26, 2013, and reported the information by the last filing date prior to the Debate, which is Friday, August 30, 2013⁸ and must have achieved at least 7%⁹ in at least one of the following polls:
 - the most recent voter preference poll conducted by Marist, or
 - the most recent voter preference poll conducted by Quinnipiac

In order to be used in this Section (b), the poll must:

⁵ Admin. Code § 3-709.5(1)(a).

⁶ Admin. Code § 3-709.5(5)(b)(i).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ A candidate will not be deemed to have achieved this threshold by adding the margin of error to his or her poll result. For example, a candidate who achieves 2.5% in a poll with a margin of error of 4.5% will not be deemed to have met the criteria of this Section (b).

- have a margin of error of 4.5% or less,
- include all of the candidates on the ballot (for the election for which the poll is conducted) at the same time the poll is taken, and
- be conducted between the date of the ballot certification and one calendar week prior to the Debate.

If no such poll exists, this Section (b) may not be used for Debate eligibility for any candidate and Section (a) will be used to determine Debate eligibility for all candidates on the ballot for the election for which this Debate is being conducted.

If there is a Mayoral Runoff Election:

- Must be on the run-off ballot as of the date of the Debate.¹⁰ If the run-off ballot is not determined as of 12:00 noon on the date of the Debate, Debate participants will be the candidates who received the three highest number of votes in the Mayoral Primary Election that takes place prior to the Debate AND
- Must meet all other minimum criteria under the Act.¹¹

¹⁰ Admin. Code § 3-709.5(1)(a).

¹¹ Admin. Code § 3-709.5(5)(b)(i).