

**Non-Partisan, Objective, and Non-Discriminatory Criteria for
Debate Participation**

- Candidates, who are Participants or Limited Participants in the Campaign Finance Program, are eligible and required to participate in a Debate if they meet the specific criteria listed for that Debate.¹
- The Sponsor may invite Campaign Finance Program Non-Participants to participate in the Debate if they meet the criteria required for Participants or Limited Participants.²

**Comptroller – Second Primary Election Debate (for “Leading Contenders”³)
Thursday, September 10, 2009**

- Must be on the ballot as of the date of the Debate⁴ AND
 - (a) Must have raised and spent \$200,000 in compliance with the Act by the last filing date prior to the Debate,⁵ which is September 4, 2009, OR
 - (b) Must have raised and spent \$25,000 in compliance with the Act by the last filing date prior to the Debate,⁶ which is September 4, 2009, AND have achieved at least 10%⁷ in at least one of the following polls:
 - o the most recent voter preference⁸ poll conducted by Marist,
 - o the most recent voter preference poll conducted by Quinnipiac, or
 - o the most recent voter preference poll conducted by NY1 News.

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

- o have a margin of error of 4.5% or less,
- o include all of the candidates on the ballot (for the election for which the poll is conducted) at the time the poll is taken, and
- o be conducted between the date of ballot certification and September 3, 2009.

¹ Admin. Code § 3-709.5(1)(a), (5)(b)(i).

² Admin. Code § 3-709.5(5)(b)(ii).

³ Admin. Code §§ 3-709.5(3), 3-709.5(5)(b)(i).

⁴ Admin. Code § 3-709.5(1)(a).

⁵ Admin. Code § 3-709.5(5)(b)(i).

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ 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 5.5 % in a poll with a margin of error of 4.5% will not be deemed to have met the criteria of this section (b).

⁸ A voter preference poll is a survey that asks respondents to express a preference among candidates on the ballot for a particular office.

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.