



## **NYC's Official 2013 Debate Program Participant Criteria for Mayoral General Election 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 General Election Debate**

#### **CBS Sponsor Group**

**Tuesday, October 22, 2013, 7 – 8 pm**

**CUNY Graduate Center Studio, 365 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, New York, NY**

- Must be on the ballot as of the date of the Debate<sup>1</sup> AND
- Must meet all other minimum criteria under the Act<sup>2</sup> 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, September 30, 2013, and reported the information by the last filing date prior to the Debate, which is Friday, October 4, 2013,<sup>3</sup> AND
  - (b) Must have achieved at least 5%<sup>4</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Admin. Code § 3-709.5(1)(a).

<sup>2</sup> Admin. Code § 3-709.5(5)(b)(i).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> 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 1.5% in a poll with a margin of error of 3.5% will not be deemed to have met the criteria of this Section (b).

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

- 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 Tuesday, October 15, 2013.

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.

### **Mayor – Second General Election Debate (for “Leading Contenders”)**

#### **NBC Sponsor Group**

**Tuesday, October 29, 2013, 7 – 8 pm, 8 – 8:30 pm (digital cast only)**

**NBC Studios, 30 Rockefeller Center, New York, NY (250 person studio audience)**

- Must be on the ballot as of the date of the Debate<sup>5</sup> AND
- Must meet all other minimum criteria under the Act<sup>6</sup> AND
- Must have met the criteria for the Mayoral First General Election debate AND
  - (a) Must have raised 20% of the General 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, October 21, 2013, and reported the information by the last filing date prior to the Debate, which is Friday, October 25, 2013<sup>7</sup> OR
  - (b) Must have raised and spent \$500,000 in compliance with the Act by the end of the last disclosure period prior to the Debate, which is Monday, October 21, 2013, and reported the information by the last filing date prior to the Debate, which is Friday, October 25, 2013,<sup>8</sup> and must have achieved at least 15%<sup>9</sup> 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:

- 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

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<sup>5</sup> Admin. Code § 3-709.5(1)(a).

<sup>6</sup> Admin. Code § 3-709.5(5)(b)(i).

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> 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 10.5% in a poll with a margin of error of 4.5% will not be deemed to have met the criteria of this Section (b).

- be conducted between the date of the ballot certification and Tuesday, October 22, 2013.

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.