



NEW YORK CITY'S OFFICIAL **2017 DEBATE PROGRAM PARTICIPANT CRITERIA FOR 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 New York City 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 debates.

FIRST PRIMARY ELECTION DEBATE

- ◆ Must be on the ballot as of the date of the Debate¹ **AND**
- ◆ Must meet all minimum criteria under the Campaign Finance Act (“the Act”)² **AND**
- ◆ Must have raised and spent 2.5% of the expenditure limit for Mayor (\$174,225) in compliance with the Act as reflected in the last filing statement prior to the Debate, which must be filed by Friday, August 11, 2017.³

SECOND PRIMARY ELECTION DEBATE (FOR “LEADING CONTENDERS”)

- ◆ Must be on the ballot as of the date of the Debate⁴ **AND**
- ◆ Must meet all other minimum criteria under the Campaign Finance Act (“the Act”)⁵ **AND**
 - (a) Must have raised and spent 2.5% of the expenditure limit for Mayor (\$174,225) in compliance with the Act as reflected in the last filing statement prior to the Debate, which must be filed by Friday, September 1, 2017⁶

AND

 - (b) Must have received an endorsement from a citywide or statewide elected official or a federal elected official, who represents all or a portion of the area covered by the election⁷; **OR**
 - (c) Must have received an endorsement from one or more membership organizations with a membership of over 250 members⁸; **OR**
 - (d) Must have received significant media exposure in the 12 months preceding the election.⁹

1 Admin. Code § 3-709.5(1)(a).

2 Admin. Code § 3-709.5(5)(b)(i).

3 *Id.*

4 Admin. Code § 3-709.5(1)(a).

5 Admin. Code § 3-709.5(5)(b)(i).

6 *Id.*

7 The CFB may require documentation from the candidate in order to make an eligibility determination.

8 The CFB may require documentation from the candidate in order to make an eligibility determination.

9 Significant media exposure requires at least 12 instances of the candidate’s name on television, radio or in print media, in the general circulation area of the election. In order to make a determination of eligibility, the CFB may require documentation from the candidate that may include, but is not limited to, a recording of a television or radio appearance that features the candidate and/or features his or her name and/or a copy of a newspaper article discussing the candidate. However, any article or news piece that merely mentions the names of candidates does not qualify as an appearance.

FIRST GENERAL ELECTION DEBATE

- ◆ Must be on the ballot as of the date of the Debate¹⁰ **AND**
- ◆ Must meet all other minimum criteria under the Campaign Finance Act (“the Act”)¹¹ **AND**
 - (a) Must have raised and spent \$500,000 in compliance with the Act as reflected in the last filing statement prior to the Debate, which must be filed by Friday, October 6, 2017¹² **OR**
 - (b) Must have raised and spent 2.5% of the expenditure limit for Mayor (\$174,225) in compliance with the Act as reflected in the last filing statement prior to the Debate, which must be filed by Friday, October 6, 2017 **AND** must have achieved at least 8%¹³ 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
- be conducted between the date of the ballot certification and Friday, October 13, 2017.

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.

10 Admin. Code § 3-709.5(1)(a).

11 Admin. Code § 3-709.5(5)(b)(i).

12 *Id.*

13 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).

SECOND GENERAL ELECTION DEBATE (FOR “LEADING CONTENDERS”)

- ◆ Must be on the ballot as of the date of the Debate¹⁴ **AND**
- ◆ Must meet all other minimum criteria under the Campaign Finance Act (“the Act”)¹⁵ **AND**
 - (a) Must have raised and spent \$1,000,000 in compliance with the Act as reflected in the last filing statement prior to the Debate, which must be filed by Friday, October 27, 2017¹⁶ **OR**
 - (b) Must have raised and spent 2.5% of the expenditure limit for Mayor (\$174,225) in compliance with the Act as reflected in the last filing statement prior to the Debate, which must be filed by Friday, October 27, 2017 **AND** must have achieved at least 15%¹⁷ 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
- be conducted between the date of the ballot certification and Friday, October 27, 2017.

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.

14 Admin. Code § 3-709.5(1)(a).

15 Admin. Code § 3-709.5(5)(b)(i).

16 *Id.*

17 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).



NEW YORK CITY'S OFFICIAL **2017 DEBATE PROGRAM PARTICIPANT CRITERIA FOR PUBLIC ADVOCATE DEBATES**

Citywide candidates who participate in the voluntary matching public funds program and meet the below criteria must attend the Public Advocate 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 New York City 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 debates.

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 Act² **AND**
- ◆ Must have raised and spent 2.5% of the expenditure limit for Public Advocate (\$108,925) in compliance with the Act as reflected in the last filing statement prior to the Debate, which must be filed by Friday, August 11, 2017.³

SECOND PRIMARY ELECTION DEBATE (FOR “LEADING CONTENDERS”)

- ◆ Must be on the ballot as of the date of the Debate⁴ **AND**
- ◆ Must meet all other minimum criteria under the Act⁵ **AND**
- ◆ Must have raised and spent \$125,000 in compliance with the Act as reflected in the last filing statement prior to the Debate, which must be filed by Friday, August 11, 2017.⁶

1 Admin. Code § 3-709.5(1)(a).

2 Admin. Code § 3-709.5(5)(b)(i).

3 *Id.*

4 Admin. Code § 3-709.5(1)(a).

5 Admin. Code § 3-709.5(5)(b)(i).

6 *Id.*

FIRST GENERAL ELECTION DEBATE

- ◆ Must be on the ballot as of the date of the Debate⁷ **AND**
- ◆ Must meet all other minimum criteria under the Act⁸ **AND**
- ◆ Must have raised and spent 2.5% of the expenditure limit for Public Advocate (\$108,925) in compliance with the Act as reflected in the last filing statement prior to the Debate, which must be filed by Friday, October 6, 2017.⁹

SECOND GENERAL ELECTION DEBATE (FOR “LEADING CONTENDERS”)

- ◆ Must be on the ballot as of the date of the Debate¹⁰ **AND**
- ◆ Must meet all other minimum criteria under the Act¹¹ **AND**
- ◆ Must have met the criteria for the Public Advocate First General Election Debate **AND**
- ◆ Must have raised and spent 5% of the expenditure limit for Public Advocate (\$217,850) in compliance with the Act as reflected in the last filing date prior to the Debate, which must be filed by Friday, October 6, 2017.¹²

7 Admin. Code § 3-709.5(1)(a).

8 Admin. Code § 3-709.5(5)(b)(i).

9 *Id.*

10 Admin. Code § 3-709.5(1)(a).

11 Admin. Code § 3-709.5(5)(b)(i).

12 *Id.*



NEW YORK CITY'S OFFICIAL **2017 DEBATE PROGRAM PARTICIPANT CRITERIA FOR COMPTROLLER DEBATES**

Citywide candidates who participate in the voluntary matching public funds program and meet the below criteria must attend the Comptroller 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 New York City 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 Comptroller debates.

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 Act² **AND**
- ◆ Must have raised and spent 2.5% of the expenditure limit for Comptroller (\$108,925) in compliance with the Act as reflected in the last filing statement date prior to the Debate, which must be filed by Friday, August 11, 2017³.

SECOND PRIMARY ELECTION DEBATE (FOR “LEADING CONTENDERS”)

- ◆ Must be on the ballot as of the date of the Debate⁴ **AND**
- ◆ Must meet all other minimum criteria under the Act⁵ **AND**
- ◆ Must have raised and spent \$125,000 in compliance with the Act as reflected in the last filing statement prior to the Debate, which must be filed by Friday, September 1, 2017.⁶

1 Admin. Code § 3-709.5(1)(a).

2 Admin. Code § 3-709.5(5)(b)(i).

3 *Id.*

4 Admin. Code § 3-709.5(1)(a).

5 Admin. Code § 3-709.5(5)(b)(i).

6 *Id.*

FIRST GENERAL ELECTION DEBATE

- ◆ Must be on the ballot as of the date of the Debate⁷ **AND**
- ◆ Must meet all other minimum criteria under the Act⁸ **AND**
- ◆ Must have raised and spent 2.5% of the expenditure limit for Comptroller (\$108,925) in compliance with the Act as reflected in the last filing statement prior to the Debate, which must be filed by Friday, October 6, 2017.⁹

SECOND GENERAL ELECTION DEBATE (FOR “LEADING CONTENDERS”)

- ◆ Must be on the ballot as of the date of the Debate¹⁰ **AND**
- ◆ Must meet all other minimum criteria under the Act¹¹ **AND**
- ◆ Must have raised and spent 5% of the expenditure limit for Comptroller (\$217,850) in compliance with the Act as reflected in the last filing date prior to the Debate, which must be filed by Friday, October 6, 2017.¹²

7 Admin. Code § 3-709.5(1)(a).

8 Admin. Code § 3-709.5(5)(b)(i).

9 *Id.*

10 Admin. Code § 3-709.5(1)(a).

11 Admin. Code § 3-709.5(5)(b)(i).

12 *Id.*