IRLS, FEC and FCC regulations that govern activities with Presidential candidates differ depending on the type of activity being undertaken. Different criteria for Presidential candidate debates, print Voters’ Guides and online Voters’ Guide are acceptable. LWVEF’s goal of fostering voter education and participation in the electoral process is furthered by including only candidates in whom a substantial number of voters have an interest. Accordingly, LWVEF has established the following criteria for participation in 2015-16 voters’ service activities for Presidential candidates. Candidates who meet the following criteria will be asked to participate.

**Primary Election Criteria Debates**

1. The candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for her/his Party's nomination for President; and,

2. The candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act's minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the FEC website; and,

3. The candidate must have a level of support of at least 2% of the national electorate as of one week before the debate as determined by any two selected national public opinion polling organizations, using those organizations' most recent publicly reported results as of one week prior to the scheduled event. ABC News, CBS News, CNN, Gallup and NBC News will serve as the national public opinion polling organizations.

**General Election Criteria Debates**

1. The candidate must have made a public announcement of his or her intention to run for President; and,

2. The candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act's minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the FEC website; and,

3. The candidate must have a level of support of at least 10% of the national electorate as determined by any two selected national public opinion polling organizations, using those organizations' most recent publicly reported results as of one week prior to the scheduled event. ABC News, CBS News, CNN, Gallup and NBC News will serve as the national public opinion polling organizations.

**Primary Election Criteria Online Voters’ Guides**

1. The candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for her/his Party’s nomination for President; and,

2. The candidate must meet the presidential Election Campaign Fund Act’s minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the FEC website.
**General Election Online Voters’ Guides**

1. The candidate must have made a public announcement of his or her intention to run for President; and,
2. The candidate must qualify for the ballot in enough states to win a majority of electoral votes; and,
3. The candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act’s minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the FEC website.

**Primary Election Print Voters’ Guide Criteria**

1. The candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for her/his Party’s nomination for President; and,
2. The candidate must qualify for the ballot in enough sites to win the nomination of that party; and,
3. The candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act’s minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the FEC website as of 5 weeks before Election Day or 2 weeks before early voting begins.

**General Election Print Voters’ Guide Criteria**

1. The candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for President; and,
2. The candidate must qualify for the ballot in enough states to win a majority of electoral votes; and,
3. The candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act’s minimum contribution threshold requirement for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the FEC website as of 5 weeks before Election Day or 2 weeks before early voting begins.

The candidates will be advised that their submitted material may appear in print, in Voters’ Guides affiliated with interested state/local Leagues and on any website affiliated with the League of Women Voters, including VOTE411.org.

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**LWVEF Guidelines for State and Local Leagues**

*EF 07-03*

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