

CANDIDATE FORUM PROCEDURES AND RULES

This co-sponsored Candidate Forum will follow an unbiased and impartial format. This event is free and open to the public and the media.

Moderators from the Hancock County Democratic and Republican Parties will moderate the forum, explain the procedures to the audience and introduce the candidates. The forum will be video recorded and the media are invited to attend. Only credentialed media are allowed to record the event. As this forum is to provide the public with as much information as possible about the candidates for whom they need to vote in the primary election on May 2, 2017, questions will only be posed to those candidates. Independents and unopposed primary candidates are encouraged to attend to provide information about themselves for the audience.

Time limits for all comments will be strictly enforced. In fairness to all candidates and the audience, we ask that these limits be respected. Each candidate will have 2 minutes for remarks to introduce themselves and provide a platform. Those who have challengers in their primary will also receive 2 minutes for an opening statement, and will then receive questions from the moderators. The moderators will begin with questions to candidates with opponents in the primary immediately after those unopposed or independents complete their statements. So that we can address as many questions as possible in the time available, each candidate will have 1 minute to answer each question. If time permits, candidates will also have 2 minutes for a closing statement.

A time-keeper will hold up signs to indicate when you have 15 seconds remaining and when you must stop. All candidates will rotate the order in which they respond to questions.

Voters attending the forum have an opportunity to submit questions to the candidates. Written questions will be accepted until April 14, 2017. To submit questions, the public can go to www.bslbeyondpolitics.com and click on the Contact Us tab. All questions will be submitted to the moderators, who will ask as many public questions as possible depending on time allowance. Any questions submitted via the website will be confidential with no identifying information forwarded. Submitting questions through the website creates an opportunity for voters to ask questions in a more private manner because it guarantees anonymity. All questions are screened by a neutral committee to ensure that questions are applicable to all candidates, are not personal in nature, and are addressed to subjects relevant to this forum.

Note paper and pens will be provided for your use. Props are not allowed. Bottled water will also be available. Campaign literature, buttons, signs, clothing or any other campaign-related items must not be brought into the room. However, a table for campaign literature will be available outside the room for candidates to place campaign materials.

If you have any question about the Hancock County Democratic and Republican Parties' Candidate Forum procedures, rules or policies, please contact Bruce Northridge at bruce.northridge@yahoo.com, Mark Carter at mark.b.carter@gmail.com, or info@bslbeyondpolitics.com.

We encourage informed and active participation of citizens in government through education and advocacy.