

LWVLMPA Forum Participation Policy Statement

The LWV of Lake Minnetonka Plymouth Area (LWVLMPA) invites all candidates running for office to participate in our candidate forums. The LWVLMPA Rules and Policies, provided to all candidates in their invitations on August 14, 2025, do not allow for remote participation following our long-time practice. We understand that both personal and professional conflicts arise, and our current protocol is to offer a number of options when candidates are unable to attend their forum in-person. Our current rules, in alignment with the LWVMN protocol, do not allow for remote participation.

The Westonka School Board Candidate Forum and the Wayzata School Board Candidate Forum each have one candidate who is unable to attend. It is unfortunate when such conflicts occur. That is why we offer several communication options. First is an invitation to submit a one-minute written opening statement to be read by the Moderator at the forum.

Additionally, all candidates are encouraged to complete the Vote411 online voter's guide. [Vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org) is our award-winning, online one-stop shop for voters where they can register to vote, find their polling place, and learn how candidates stand on issues. This is a wonderful opportunity for candidates to express their viewpoints using a trusted nonpartisan platform.

Finally, candidates who are unable to attend can watch the livestream or recording and post to their campaign websites our questions and their answers if they so choose. Both the Westonka School Board Forum and the Wayzata School Board Forum will be livestreamed and recorded for on-demand viewing at www.lwvlmpa.org/candidate-forums We widely disseminate this access through the school districts' communication channels, local newspapers, and on all of our social media.

Prior to the next election cycle, the LWVLMPA will investigate remote access availability and effectiveness across the many communities we serve by discussing both pros and cons with our city clerks and elected officials. Timing does not allow this to occur this year. There are competing values and potential



technology risks that need to be studied and weighed. As a small, non-profit with a very limited budget, we must rely on whatever technology capabilities are available at the public venues that generously host our forums.

These forums are planned months ahead, and it is not uncommon for a candidate to have a conflict arise with the date of the forum. Although this is unfortunate, candidates have responded by providing written statements and taking advantage of the other options for communication of their positions that the LWV provides.

Revised September 11, 2025