

The **I**NDPENDENT™
OF THE PARTY
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



THE MAGNIFICENT MIDDLE

DEBATE GUIDE



DEBATE GUIDE

RUNNING FOR OFFICE

So you have decided that you want to host or enter a DEBATE to run for the PRIVILEGE to SERVE WE the PEOPLE, ALL the PEOPLE, EQUALLY!

FIRST, YOU must BELIEVE you CAN and WILL be a better “PUBLIC SERVANT” than those who are in office.

Note: This guide is fluid and will be updated as needed it is intended to help first time candidates and hosts as a reference giving them a step-by-step process, it is not “exact” because all 50 states have ballot and voter laws that do not meet equal protection and equal requirement for all candidates. The order of these steps are NOT in stone, the key here is to provide a framework or process that will give the voter and you the best chance to hear your message and they can decide if you are the candidate they are looking for and win the **VOTE!**

To give **WE the PEOPLE**, that **3rd CHOICE**, a **BEST CHOICE!**

Here are the basic steps to follow:

1. **JOIN** The Independent Party! (Yes, you can run on your own, but your chances of winning drop by a minimum of 50%, if not 75%.)
2. **CONTACT** the Department of Elections and find out what the **REQUIREMENTS** are for the office you seek. All 50 States, DC, and Territories have their own set of rules. (Usually the SoS (Secretary of State) for the office you seek, or the DoE (Department of Elections), if they can't give you a step-by-step

process and a liaison to help, that tells you automatically they are not in compliance with Federal, State, and/or Local Equal Protection and Access for Ballot and Voter Election Laws.)

3. Determine which path you want to take: (1) **WRITE-IN** Candidate, (2) **INDIVIDUAL** on the Ballot, and (3) **PARTY** Candidate on the Ballot. (The requirements for each should be the same by law, the difference being that to be “on the ballot” requires a cut off date for the logistics of placing your name on the ballot.)
4. Begin the process of filling out the **FORMS** and **PETITIONS** to get yourself on the **BALLOT**. (Usually a Form 1 - (Candidate Information), Form 2 - (Committee Information), Form 3 - (Voter Petition), and Form 4 - (Elector Petition).)
5. Create a **COMMITTEE** to raise **FUNDS** and a **SCHEDULE** for your **CAMPAIGN** to follow until you win on Election Day. (The Committee should be a non-profit tax exempt campaign committee and the schedule keeps you on track, like a check list to make sure you are **VIABLE!**)
6. Create a **CAMPAIGN PHOTO**, this is one of the most important steps, because if you don't look like a candidate, people will not believe you can be the candidate. (See example of Candidate Photo below)



7. Create **WEBPAGE**, **FACEBOOK**, **YOUTUBE**, and **TWITTER** pages to get your **MESSAGE** out! (Two things that determine if you will be elected are (1) money to get your message out, and (2) your message.)
8. Determine your **PLATFORM** and **POSITION** on the **ISSUES**. (Remember ALL POLITICS is LOCAL and PERSONAL! You have to have a MESSAGE that will reach and get a MAJORITY

of the PEOPLE to VOTE for YOU! You have to be a VIABLE CANDIDATE!)

9. Create a **DECLARATION of CANDIDACY**; send it to the appropriate official (SoS or DoE) for a seal and signature. Then, **DECLARE**, you are running for office. (Again, the DoC “officially” informs everyone that you are: “In it to Win it!”)
10. Now, go out and **TALK** to people, get your **MESSAGE** out, **REGISTER** people to **VOTE**, and get them to **VOTE FOR YOU!** (This is the MOST IMPORTANT thing that will get you elected is REGISTERING PEOPLE to VOTE, and getting them to VOTE for YOU!, you want to be the candidate that gives them the reason to get up, register, and VOTE!)
11. At any time you need help contact your Local Candidate Liaison for The Independent Party, if there isn’t one contact your State Candidate Liaison, or the National Candidate Liaison.

CAMPAIGN ATTIRE

The purpose of this guide is to put forth a standard for TIP Candidates, to promote a professional image that people can trust. We have the BEST PLATFORM and the BEST CANDIDATES, so it is natural we want to look OUR BEST!

For “official” campaign functions, the dress is business professional:

1. Black Coat
2. White Shirt
3. Black Tie
4. Black Pants
5. Black Socks
6. Black Shoes
7. Red, White, and Blue Pocket Hanky
8. 1 Tie Pin
9. No Gaudy Jewelry

Picture of general look for “official” campaign function attire:



For “casual” campaign functions, dress appropriate for the occasion. Again, you want to put forth a candidate that not only has integrity and is professional, but looks it too!

Now, that we have you ready to run for office, you might have to run for the nomination to run for office!

RUNNING A DEBATE

The key to running a successful debate is creating the environment so the candidates can put their best foot forward to provide the voters with the information they need to vote for the person who is the BEST CHOICE!

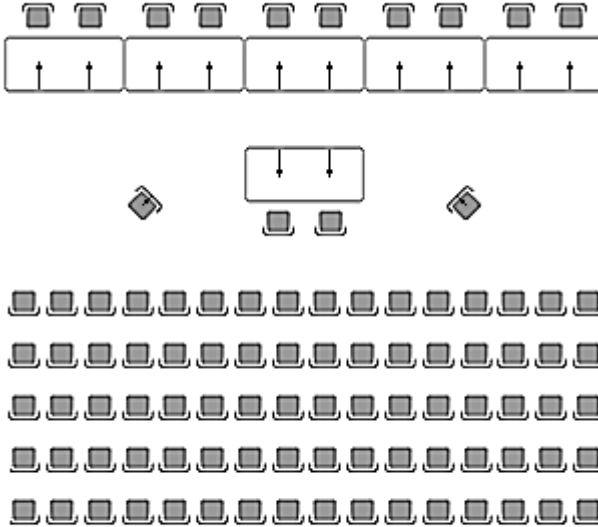
DEBATE VENUE

The venue you select should match the level of public service that the candidates are seeking. Meaning select a venue with enough space and facilities for the level of the race that is being run.

You want to have enough seats for the voters who wish to attend and participate. You want to have the media capabilities to broadcast or post the debate so those who cannot attend can view or review the candidates to decide who is the BEST CHOICE for them!

DEBATE LAYOUT

In all TIP debates the Standard Debate Format that will be used is the Theatre Style Moderator/Audience Debate Layout.



BASIC DEBATE LAYOUT

Of course if needed you can always adjust the layout to accommodate for the facilities used.

No more than ten candidates at a time will be allowed in any debate.

The position of the candidates is by draw making it random so that their position on the stage does not give any advantage to any one candidate. The key is always to have equal time and opportunity for all the candidates.

DEBATE QUALIFICATIONS

The qualifications to appear at a debate should always be equal to or as close to the ballot qualifications, so that the candidates that appear will be able to actually be “on the ballot!” We are looking to put forth VIABLE candidates! But, realize that the reason for a debate is to give the voters the information THEY need to select the nominee they want to run as “The Independent Party Candidate!”

ALL candidates MUST be members of The Independent Party and agree to stay within the IDEALS of party platform and the debate guidelines!

DEBATE RULES

The order of answering questions by the candidates is started by an audience member. After that the moderator will start with the next candidate for each question so that each candidate will go first, last, and rotated in between creating an equal opportunity for the candidates.

The time allotted for answers is a standard of one minute, depending on the debate it can be lowered to a minimum of thirty seconds. There will be NO REBUTTALS! The idea here is to force the candidates to stick to putting forth the policies and positions that they WILL take when elected to office to SERVE ALL the People, and what they WILL do if elected! There will be NO TRASH TALK!

The point being that Independents are so close in their beliefs of what and how a PUBLIC SERVANT should act and be, they are looking for the candidate who will BEST put forth a PROFESSIONAL, COMPETENT, PERSONABLE, and VIABLE public servant who can win the election, and who can and will SERVE ALL the People EQUALLY!

DEBATE OPENING STATEMENTS

Each candidate will have one minute to introduce themselves and their vision of what their service will be like! As always the order will be by draw!

DEBATE QUESTIONS

All Moderator Questions will be prepared beforehand based on the ISSUES that the voters want to ask the candidates, so that the candidates can be prepared to give their best answer. A minimum of five questions per debate will be asked to keep the flow of the debate moving.

The rest of the questions in a debate are asked or put forth by the audience. The Audience Questions will be submitted and selected at random, and the moderators will assist the audience members in asking their question if needed or asked. This way the audience can ask the questions about the ISSUES that they want to know the answers too! This also puts the candidates on the spot so the voters can see how they will perform under pressure!

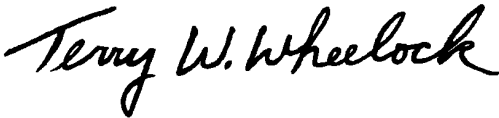
DEBATE CLOSING STATEMENTS

Each candidate will again have one minute to tie together and summate their appearance! The order will again be by draw! The last candidate will at the end of their closing statement, THANK the audience for attending and express the reason that ALL the candidates have attended is so that YOU the VOTER can select the BEST CHOICE to SERVE ALL of US!

This is the how debates will be conducted at all levels so that the VOTERS can have the information they need to elect the candidate that will be the best nominee.

This guide is a fluid document and will be added to and updated as needed!

Sincerely and Respectfully,



Terry W. Wheelock
Chair - The Independent Party – Independent National Committee



THE INDEPENDENT PARTY
Freedom and Individual Rights



THE INDEPENDENT PARTY

Freedom and *Individual Rights*