



WSRE Candidate Forum | General Election Invitation Criteria for Candidate Participation Federal, State and Local Offices

WSRE shall cover the following 2018 campaigns based on its good faith journalistic judgment as to what will best serve the interests of its viewers: US Congressional District 1; Florida Senate District 2; Florida House Districts 1, 3 and 4; County Commissioner District 2 (Escambia and Santa Rosa); and Mayor of Pensacola.

Candidates running in the general election will be invited to appear, individually and/or together with other qualifying candidates for the same office, if he or she can demonstrate before 5:00 pm CST on Friday, October 12, 2018* that he or she satisfies the following three (3) criteria:

1. The candidate is a Florida resident and has qualified for a place on the general election ballot.
2. The candidate is running an active campaign, which requires the candidate to demonstrate that:
 - a. He or she is maintaining an active, publicly accessible Internet website or Facebook page devoted to the campaign that addresses at least three (3) issues related to their respective public office race; and
 - b. The federal candidate must make campaign appearances in at least four (4) of the counties in which the candidate is running. Whereas the state candidate must make at least six (6) campaign appearances and the local candidate must make at least five (5) campaign appearances in the district in which the candidate is running on or after January 1, 2018.*

A campaign appearance requires the actual physical presence of the candidate at an event within each such county or district, at which event the candidate campaigns for his or her candidacy. Campaign appearances may include: a campaign speech before an audience, a public campaign rally, a presentation at an organized political, civic or religious event, an interview with a newspaper of general circulation, television station, radio station or a cable news channel, or an informal "meet and greet" stop where the candidate interacts with the public.

The candidate must provide documentation that the appearance took place within each such county or district on or after January 1, 2018. Documentation may include news coverage of the appearance, photographs or videos clearly showing the location and nature of the appearance, and/or corroborating correspondence by organizers, participants or observers of the appearance who are not on the candidate's campaign staff.

3. For the current election the federal candidate has accepted at least \$10,000 in contributions, as documented in filings with the Federal Election Commission; the state candidate has accepted at least \$5,000; and the local candidate has accepted at least \$1,000 in contributions.

WSRE reserves the right not to cover particular political races and, notwithstanding its having invited a candidate or candidates to appear, WSRE reserves the right to cancel any scheduled program.

*Candidates must demonstrate satisfaction of the criteria to Kasey Jones via e-mail wsreadmin@wsre.org.

WSRE may (but is not required to) independently determine whether a candidate has satisfied the criteria, in the absence of a candidate making the showing.