

RALLY 2018

WSRE Candidate Forum | Primary 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 and 2; County Commissioner Districts 2 and 4 (Escambia and Santa Rosa); School Board Districts 1, 2 and 3 (Escambia); School Board Districts 1, 3 and 5 (Santa Rosa and Okaloosa); and Mayor of Pensacola.

Candidates running in the primary 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 Thursday, August 2, 2018* that he or she satisfies the following two (2) criteria:

1. The candidate is a Florida resident and has qualified for a place on the primary 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 three (3) of the counties in which the candidate is running. Whereas the state candidate must make at least four (4) campaign appearances and the local candidates must make at least three (3) 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.

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.