



NEWS RELEASE

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Primary Debate Sponsorship Applications Due by March 17

Potential sponsors of the upcoming gubernatorial primary debates must submit their applications by March 17, 2025, according to Amanda Haines, ELEC's Executive Director.

"The deadline is quickly approaching so we wanted to send out this reminder," she said.

Potential sponsors must submit to ELEC a completed copy of "Application to Sponsor Gubernatorial Election Debate(s)" (Form DS).

It is available at: https://www.elec.nj.gov/publicinformation/gub_man_forms.htm.

The form is used to obtain information such as whether the sponsor has overseen previous debates, will rebroadcast debates, will withhold any candidate endorsements until all debates it will sponsor have been completed, will broadcast the debate in a foreign language, and will use a facility that accommodates persons with physical disabilities.

Forms must be submitted no later than March 17, 2025. The bipartisan Commission is meeting April 8, 2025 to select sponsors for the primary debates.

Gubernatorial candidates participating in the public financing program are required to participate in two candidate debates for each election and must complete the Candidate Certification for Public Financing and Debate Participation. (Form G-1A).

Candidates who are not participating in the public financing program also can participate in these debates. They must submit to the Commission reports showing they have raised and spent the applicable threshold amount (\$580,000 in 2025) along with Form G-1A no later than March 24, 2025.

ELEC's role in gubernatorial debates is limited to picking sponsors, ensuring they meet the requirements of the law, and resolving any differences that may arise between the sponsors.

By statute, the earliest a primary debate can be held this year is April 3¹, 2025. The latest date is May 30, 2025. The primary election is set for June 10, 2025.

¹ Revised 3/3/25