Rules for NJTV’s 2018 Congressional General Election Debates – Eligibility and Participation

Introduction
Public Media NJ, Inc., also known as “NJTV”, is producing a series of televised debates among candidates competing for certain Congressional seats in the 2018 General Election (the “Debates”).

The schedule for the Debates is:
- October 10, 2018 – CD-11
- October 17, 2018 – CD-7
- October 24, 2018 – U.S. Senate
- October 31, 2018 – CD-3

The Debates will take place in the Agnes Varis NJTV Studio in Newark, New Jersey. Each debate will be broadcast live on NJTV, as well as streamed online at www.njtvnews.org and via social media. NJTV anticipates that each debate will start at approximately 8 p.m. and last approximately one hour. More details on broadcast and streaming plans, as well as the debate moderators, will be posted online at www.njtvonline.org.

Candidate Eligibility Rules
1. To qualify to be invited to participate in the Debates, a candidate must satisfy each and all of the following criteria:
   A. Be legally qualified for the office sought;
   B. Have qualified to appear on the ballot for the General Election and be recognized on the Official List of candidates for the office sought, as published by the New Jersey Department of State, Division of Elections in August 2018; and
   C. Have at least 10% support among registered voters (giving the candidate the full benefit of a margin of error\(^1\)), as reflected by a reputable, experienced and independent poll selected by NJTV in its sole discretion, published no later than five (5) days before the relevant debate.
      i. By way of example, such polls may include Monmouth University Polling Institute, Quinnipiac University Poll, or the Rutgers-Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling.
      ii. For purposes of these Candidate Eligibility Rules, the term “independent poll” means a poll that is not commissioned, paid for, or performed by or on behalf of a candidate, a candidate’s campaign, one who has publicly endorsed a candidate, or a political party.

\(^1\) By way of example, if a poll shows a candidate receiving 8% support among all registered voters in his or her party, and the poll's margin of error is 4%, the candidate's support, including the full benefit of the margin of error, is 12%. If such a candidate meets the other criteria set forth in these Rules, that candidate would qualify to be invited to participate in the Debate.
Candidate Participation Rules

1. Any invitation by NJTV to a candidate to participate in the Debates is conditioned on the candidate’s agreeing to abide by all rules concerning the debate to which he or she is invited, including these Rules as well as rules TBD concerning the conduct and format of the debate itself (the “Debate Rules”).

2. The Debate Rules will be determined by NJTV. NJTV may, in its sole discretion, refine the Debate Rules in consultation with the participating candidates. However, all final decisions rest with NJTV. By participating in a debate, a candidate is agreeing to abide by the final Debate Rules as determined by NJTV.

3. All decisions relating to the debates, including the interpretation and application of these Rules and the Debate Rules, are within the sole discretion of NJTV, and are final. NJTV also reserves the right to alter or amend any of the rules at its sole and absolute discretion.

4. Participating candidates will not be compensated for their appearance in the Debates. Participating candidates (and their staff, guests, etc.) shall be solely responsible for their own transportation, lodging, and other expenses incurred directly or indirectly in connection with the Debates.

5. NJTV may cancel, postpone, or reschedule the Debates in its sole discretion. In such event, NJTV is not responsible or otherwise liable to any candidate or any other third party for any cost or expense.