

k. PROGRAM COMMITTEE DEBATE POLICY

1. The Program Committee will exercise its judgement in deciding whom to invite to participate in debates sponsored by the City Club. These decisions may be based on a candidate's name familiarity, strength and visibility of the candidate's campaign, fundraising, and other factors determined by the Committee to be helpful in deciding whom to invite. The Program Committee, at its discretion, may invite up to three candidates. No more than three candidates shall be invited to participate in any Friday Forum debate because of the one hour time restriction and the Club's desire to provide opportunity for the airing of as much substantive information as possible. The committee will provide guidelines to candidates in a letter for each election cycle.
2. If a candidate wishes to protest his or her exclusion from a debate, the candidate may write a brief letter to the Chair of the Program Committee with a copy to the Executive Director, describing why the candidate should not have been excluded. After consulting with the Club President and Executive Director, the Chair will present a recommendation to the Program Committee which may either reverse or ratify its former decision.
3. In the event the Club desires to hear from more than three candidates, it may do so through alternative formats or events which do not have the same time and format constraints as Friday Forum debates.
4. The committee recommends that the membership and experts beyond the membership be solicited for debate questions and the members of the Research Board be involved in helping the debate organizers by providing relevant questions which highlight issues on which the Club has formal positions.

Ratified by the Board of Governors July 28, 2008