



2012 Elections: Candidate Opportunities on Tempe 11

Candidate Open Mic Guidelines

Tempe 11 provides certified candidates for Mayor and City Council with five-minute opportunities to videotape messages to community members. Here are some guidelines to keep in mind:

- These opportunities will start on the day of the last City Council meeting in January of the current election year. They will conclude on the day of the last City Council meeting prior to the General Election, if necessary. For the 2012 elections, the open mic events will begin Jan. 19.
- Videotaping will start promptly at 4 p.m. If there is a City Council Strategy Session – typically scheduled for 3 p.m. on the date of the second Council meeting of the month – videotaping will instead begin at 1 p.m. To confirm whether a Strategy Session has been scheduled, check the agendas posted for that date by visiting www.tempe.gov/clerk. If a change to the City Council's schedule is necessary, candidates will be notified at least 24 hours in advance.
- Participating candidates are required to arrive 10 minutes early in the City Council Chambers, 31 E. Fifth St., to draw numbers for presentation order. If a candidate arrives after the videotaping has started, he/she will not be allowed to participate on that particular date but may do so on the next scheduled open mic taping.
- Videotaping is live and there are no retakes. No editing will be done for any candidate.
- Each session will be available for viewing at www.tempe.gov/tempe11 usually by 10 p.m. on the same day. These will be catalogued on Tempe 11's website so that candidates can link to the video throughout their campaigns.
- Each session will air on Tempe 11 on the following days/times: Mondays at 10:30 a.m. and 8 p.m.; Thursdays at 5 p.m.; Fridays at 6:30 a.m.; Saturdays at 7:30 a.m.; and Sundays at 3:30 p.m. Each session airs until the next City Council meeting.
- Tempe 11 reserves the right, after consultation with legal counsel, not to air comments that include profanities or possible defamatory statements.

Candidate Debate/Forum Guidelines

Tempe 11 works with organizations that want to host televised debates or forums with certified candidates for Mayor and/or Council. Here are some guidelines to keep in mind:

- Requests will be considered in the order they were received. Requests should be made to Skip Neeley at Tempe 11 at 480-350-8474.
- Requests will be limited to two debates/forums per election (Primary & General) per requesting group or organization.
- Televised debates/forums should begin at least two weeks prior to the mailing of early voting ballots.
- One televised debate/forum opportunity per week will be available to a requesting group and will be videotaped in the City Council Chambers with a time limit not to exceed two hours for a City Council candidate debate/forum and 1.5 hours for a mayoral candidate debate/forum. These guidelines are designed to afford more groups/organizations the opportunity to sponsor debates/forums. Dates and times are subject to the availability of the City Council Chambers and Tempe 11 staff.
- Groups/organizations must invite all candidates to participate. A minimum of 51 percent of all candidates must be in attendance in order for the debate/forum to be televised. If combining candidates for various local, county, state or federal offices, there must be 51 percent of all candidates per office participating. Prior to televising the debate/forum, groups/organizations must provide confirmation to the city in writing that all candidates have been invited to participate.
- Each group/organization will be responsible for debate/forum content and process. The city encourages every group/organization to conduct each debate/forum in an equitable and fair manner. However, it is every group's/organization's responsibility to achieve this goal.
- Each debate/forum will be replayed on Tempe 11 a minimum of two times during the following week at the discretion of Tempe 11. They also will be accessible at www.tempe.gov/tempe11.
- Hosting groups/organizations will be given a DVD copy of their debate/forum at no cost.
- If the city receives more requests than time available, groups/organizations will be referred to Cox Communications.
- The following disclaimer will be run periodically throughout each televised debate/forum: "The City of Tempe and Tempe 11 is not responsible for debate/forum content and process. The sponsoring organization is responsible for the process and general content while candidates are responsible for their specific views."
- Tempe 11 will work with other Valley cities (during non-municipal elections) to be sure there is not duplication in debates/forums being produced. If a debate/forum is already being produced by another city, Tempe will use that existing debate/forum on Tempe 11.

For more information about candidate open mic opportunities or debates/forums, contact Skip Neeley with Tempe 11 (480-350-8474) or Nikki Ripley with the city's communication division (480-350-8846).