



Waupaca Radio – Political Policy

Programming Content

All programming on Waupaca Radio will stay clear of political content. Show hosts, volunteers and guests will not discuss political content or information about candidates for office; with exceptions listed below in this policy. Any programming with political / candidate content will be purely informational with the station and host(s) not taking sides. As a show host/volunteer you understand you cannot endorse, or encourage people to vote for or against, a political candidate or initiative.

Candidate Requests

Any requests from candidates for any public office for time on Waupaca Radio will be denied. Due to the nature of our operation we will stay clear from this type of programming. Waupaca Radio shall accept no underwriting from individuals or committees concerning candidates for any public office/election.

Accepted Candidate Programming

The only types of political/candidate programming that may air on Waupaca Radio include any candidates debates/forums that are open to the public; have had all candidates for said office involved and pertain to a local election. Waupaca Radio staff may also elect to hold an on the air candidates forum. Any on the air candidates forum must stay clear of sides and have all candidates for said office invited to participate. This forum would be for public information purposes only to inform residents of the Waupaca area of a particular office.

Candidates for Public Office

Due to "equal time" rules the FCC mandates to all broadcast stations candidates for public office will be asked to forego any programming on the station while an official candidate for office. Waupaca Radio considers someone a candidate for office from the time papers are filed until the day following the election of said office.

Example: The FCC requires equal time for each candidate for a said office. There are two candidates for a city council seat in the same district. One hosts a weekly two hour show. Regardless of the content of this weekly show; the other candidate for the same office can request and has to be granted two hours on the air each week to discuss anything they want.

From the Broadcast Law Blog: "Once a candidate becomes "legally qualified" (i.e. he or she has established their right to a place on the ballot by filing the necessary papers), equal opportunities rights are available to the opposing candidates. What this means is that, if the on-air broadcaster who is running for political office stays on the air, any opposing candidate can come to the station and demand equal opportunities within seven days of the date on which the on-air announcer/candidate was on the air, and the opponent would be entitled to the same amount of time in which they can broadcast a political message, to be run in the same general time period as the station employee/candidate was on the air. So if your meteorologist decides to run for the city council, and he appears on the 6 o'clock news for 3 minutes each night doing the weather, an opposing city council candidate can get up to 21 minutes of time (3 minutes for each of the last 7 days), and that opposing candidate does not need to read the weather, but can do a full political message."