

WOOL Policies: Political Advocacy and Candidacy



Free Speech and Fair Speech are equally important in WOOL's broadcasts. These are WOOL's policies regarding political advocacy and candidacy, intended to keep our exercise of free political speech both fair and lawful.

"When free time is provided for use by or on behalf of candidates, a record of the free time provided shall be placed in the political file." — 47 CFR Part 73 | Subpart H, Rules Applicable to All Broadcast Stations | § 73.1943. WOOL's policy is that any WOOL program host who interviews any candidate for any political office, or who has a guest who substantially speaks in favor of or against any candidate for any political office, or who personally speaks substantially in favor of or against any candidate for any political office, is required to present a written record detailing the date, time, individual speaker(s), candidate name(s), and a synopsis of the discussion or presentation to the WOOL Board within three days of the broadcast. Failure to do so can result in immediate termination of broadcast privileges. The written record, per 47 CFR Part 73 | Subpart H, Rules Applicable to All Broadcast Stations | § 73.1943, must be retained in the station's Public File for two years. This policy does not impinge on free speech.

Although the FCC has discarded The Fairness Doctrine that required providing equal air time to opposing political candidates who request it as a result of air time provided to another candidate, WOOL has not. WOOL's policy is that any WOOL program host who interviews any candidate for any political office, or who has a guest who substantially speaks in favor of or against any candidate for any political office, or who personally speaks substantially in favor of or against any candidate for any political office, is required to provide equal air time for any opposing candidate(s) or their official representatives who request it. Any initial and responding air time for or against any candidate(s) requires that the host prepare and provide to the WOOL Board the previously described documentation for the Public File.

WOOL's policy is that any Program Host who is a candidate for any public office must relinquish their WOOL broadcasting privilege for the duration of their candidacy. 47 CFR Part 73 | Subpart H, Rules Applicable to All Broadcast Stations | § 73.1940 indicates that a candidate for public office is any person who has publicly announced their intention to run for nomination or office, and is qualified under law to hold that office. WOOL also considers individuals proposed for appointed public office as candidates for the duration of the representing body's deliberation. Public office holders may be program hosts, but not during their candidacy.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS MATERIAL.

Host Signature & Date

Parent/Guardian Signature & Date