

A Resolution regarding guidelines for AAUW-NYS Branch sponsorship of Candidate Forums, submitted March 10, 2011, by Bath Branch for consideration at the Annual AAUW-NYS Convention April 15 - 17.

In past years, AAUW has sponsored successful forums to acquaint voters with candidates for public office. However, traditional candidates chosen by major parties are no longer the only persons actively seeking election. Third party, and write-in, candidates were prominent during the election season of 2010, and will undoubtedly be significant in the future. According to the Associated Press, at least 15 states had third-party write-in campaigns during 2010.

The purpose of this Resolution is to accommodate the changing needs of voters as they seek to discern the positions and qualifications of candidates running for local, state and national office, and to continue the public service which AAUW provides through comprehensive Voter Education Forums.

Whereas AAUW-NYS intends to foster an informed voting public; and,

Whereas Voter Education Forums are an effective means of providing information from candidates about their positions and qualifications; and,

Whereas the pre-election climate has changed as information technology and voter activity have developed;

Now therefore be it RESOLVED that

In addition to the Guidelines set forth in the AAUW publication "Women-to-Women Voter Turnout", any candidate forum sponsored in whole or in part by an AAUW-NYS Branch shall also abide by the following:

All major party candidates for featured offices must be invited. In addition, the sponsoring Branch may invite candidates who have timely filed a petition to be on the ballot with the appropriate governmental body and who are actively campaigning for office. The Branch must publicize the criteria for selecting candidates to be invited to participate in the forum, before invitations are issued.

The members of Bath Branch
Alise O. Irwin, President