August 26, 2014

Dear Mr. Rauner:

Illinois Public Broadcasters and the League of Women Voters of Illinois are pleased to have your participation in a 60-minute gubernatorial candidates’ debate on Thursday, October 9 at 8pm in the studios of WTVP-TV, 101 State Street in Peoria, IL 61602. The debate will be hosted by WTVP-TV (Peoria/Bloomington), WILL-AM-FM-TV (Champaign/Urbana), WSIU-FM-TV (Carbondale) and WUIS-FM (Springfield) and broadcast on public TV and radio stations across the state and carried as news stories by commercial media. The debate will also be webcast live and archived on public media websites.

Jak Tichenor, host of Illinois Lawmakers, from WSIU, will moderate the debate and questions will be asked by a panel of journalists before a live, studio audience.

A meeting with you or your representative and the other candidate will be held at WTVP-TV, 101 State Street in Peoria, IL 61602 on Monday, September 15 from 11am – noon. During that meeting, we will discuss the debate format, review venue logistics and ask you to sign the attached debate agreement.

Please contact Irene Pritzker, Chair, LWVII. Voter Service, via email, ipritzker@lwvil.org, to confirm your attendance at the September 15 meeting. The deadline to RSVP for this meeting is 5pm September 8, 2014.

Sincerely,

Mary Kubasak
President, LVV

Randy Eccles
GM, WUIS

Chet Tomeczyk
GM, WTVP-TV, WILL

Greg Petrozich
GM, WSIU-TV
Gubernatorial Debate Participation Agreement

Illinois Public Broadcasters and the League of Women Voters of Illinois are pleased to have your participation in a 60-minute gubernatorial candidates’ debate on Thursday, October 9 at 8pm in the studios of WTVP-TV, 101 State Street in Peoria, IL 61602. The debate will be hosted by WTVP-TV (Peoria/Bloomington), WILL-AM-FM-TV (Champaign/Urbana), WSIU-FM-TV (Carbondale) and WUIS-FM (Springfield) and broadcast on public TV and radio stations across the state and carried as news stories by commercial media.

Your candidacy has met the participation criteria for statewide office as outlined in the League’s Candidate Participation Policy. Those criteria are as follows:
1) Constitutional Eligibility – The candidate must meet the requirements of the Illinois and United States Constitution.
2) State Election Laws – The candidate must meet all requirements to be on the ballot according to state election law.
3) Formal Campaign – The candidate must show evidence that a formal campaign is being waged including campaign headquarters, campaign staff, position papers and campaign appearances.
4) Candidates must demonstrate that there is significant voter interest and support of their candidacies as evidenced by receipt of ten percent (10%) of support in general elections in one or more statewide nonpartisan public opinion polls conducted not more than thirty days prior to the election and at least five days prior to the debate.
5) It is the candidate’s responsibility to demonstrate that the above criteria have been met.
6) Participation in a pre-debate meeting at WTVP-Public Media for Central Illinois.

Debate Rules

- The 60-minute debate will be moderated by Jak Tichenor from WSIU-TV. A panel of three journalists (Amanda Vinicky, Statehouse Bureau Chief from WUIS radio; H Wayne Wilson, host of “At Issue” at WTVP-TV; and a yet-to-be-confirmed third journalist) will ask questions of each candidate. The moderator may also ask questions. Questions asked of candidates will be determined by the panel of journalists with input from the public prior to the debate.
- Candidates agree to answer the questions asked and can expect journalists to hold them accountable for a direct answer. The debate format will consist of a 90-second opening and closing statement by each candidate and timed responses (between 60 and 90 seconds each) to questions asked by our panel of journalists and 30-second clarifying responses.
• The Illinois Public Broadcasting Council owns the copyright of the digital recording of the debate. Each candidate must sign a broadcast agreement (see separate file) in which they pledge not to use any part of the digital recording in any campaign advertising.

• Candidates may have up to 20 supporters as part of the live audience. The names of each audience member must be submitted to Stacey Tomiczyk, stacey.tomczyk@wtpv.org, by October 1. Only people on the list who display a photo ID will be allowed in the building.

• Candidates agree to participate in a press conference immediately following the live debate. The press conference will be facilitated by a representative from the League of Women Voters of Illinois and will take place in the TV studio. Each candidate will meet the press separately, order determined ahead of time by drawing of straws.

• Candidates will be provided with water, a note pad and pens. Candidates are not permitted to bring in notes, props or ringers in the audience.

• Audience members are not permitted to wear or display anything showing a candidate’s name. Audience members are not allowed to exhibit (by cheering, clapping for or booing, for example) support for or opposition to any candidate.

• Candidates are responsible for providing their own make-up for TV.

Logistics

• We will provide the following for each candidate’s campaign: a green room, access to a wireless internet connection and parking.

• Our consortium of public broadcasting stations will archive the debate on our websites and will post all agreements between our stations and the candidates on our websites.

• Candidates and their staff are to arrive at WTVP-TV by 7pm the night of the debate.

• Candidate supporters who will be members of the studio audience are to arrive by 7:30pm. (Doors open at 7pm.)

I hereby agree to the rules cited above:

[Signature]

Candidate’s/Representative’s Signature

[Signature]

Date

[Signature] / [Signature] / 9/15/14

Print Name and Campaign and Date