2020 Iowa Press Debates – Primary Election – Candidate Criteria

A candidate for federal office will be invited to participate in an Iowa PBS debate or forum produced and broadcast by Iowa PBS for the 2020 primary election if he/she can demonstrate that he/she satisfies the following criteria:

1. He/She has been qualified by the Iowa Secretary of State’s Office for a place on the primary election ballot.

2. He/She has made public position statements on at least three (3) issues, substantially in the form of press releases, campaign brochures, speeches or similar statements made publicly or on a campaign website;

3. He/She has received more than incidental press coverage, in at least five (5) bona fide print, online, radio, television, or cable TV news stories that identify him/her as a candidate for the current election.

The deadline for candidates to demonstrate they meet Iowa PBS’ criteria for a debate or forum is 4 p.m. CST on the day that is twenty-one (21) calendar days prior to the day of the scheduled debate or forum. Iowa PBS has sole discretion in determining the primaries for which it will produce and broadcast a debate or forum. Iowa PBS reserves the right to cancel any scheduled program. For more information about Iowa PBS’ candidate criteria, please contact candidatecriteria@iowapbs.org.