

Maymin Include

Libertarian Party candidate Phil Maymin, 31, will debate incumbent U.S. Rep. Christopher Shays, R-4, and Democrat candidate Diane Farrell in at least seven of the October debates sponsored by independent, nonpartisan organizations applying objective standards of candidate eligibility.

These debates are sponsored by the League of Women Voters, the Business Council of Fairfield County, Temple Israel, Fairfield University, the Jewish Center for Community Services and the World Affairs Forum.

Federal law mandates that organizations sponsoring debates have pre-existing, written, objective criteria for determining candidate eligibility. The candidate guidelines of the League of Women Voters are widely considered to be the benchmark in objectivity. They include ballot access by the candidate, a formal campaign presence, evidence of broad voter support, and evidence of significant financial support.

Shays and Farrell have scheduled four additional debates in October with sponsoring organizations that have not yet invited Maymin to participate.

Some of those organizations, said Maymin, will be making their final decision within the next few weeks. Others are waiting for official polls from news media or independent polling organizations to confirm Maymin's broad-based support.

"The AARP, for example, requires a showing of more than five percent by an official poll conducted by a news media or independent polling organization," said Maymin.

"They require this even though they admit there have not yet been any such polls conducted in this race. It is impossible to have a good showing on a poll if no poll exists.

Therefore their criteria are not objective, and probably not even criteria in any normal sense of the word."

The AARP has exceptions for Democrats and Republicans because they showed more than five percent in the previous election. There was no Libertarian candidate in the 2004 Congressional election.

"I often hear that the AARP, for example, requires a showing of more than five percent by an official poll conducted by a news media or independent polling organization," said Maymin. "They require this even though they admit there have not yet been any such polls conducted in this race. It is impossible to have a good showing on a poll if no poll exists. Therefore their criteria are not objective, and probably not even criteria in any normal sense of the word."

The debate co-sponsors, the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce and News 12 television has similar requirements and has also chosen not to invite Maymin to their event for now.

According to the Maymin campaign, if any news media or independent organization runs a poll for this race with Libertarian Phil Maymin offered as one of the choices, and the poll shows significant support for Maymin, then the remaining four forums will likely include Maymin in their debates as well.

Third Graders



Greco Elevated to Grand Knight
Tom Greco of Greenwich has been named the new grand knight of the Knights of the Orono Community.

- Oct. 15, at Temple Israel.
- Oct. 16, at 8 p.m., Fairfield University, sponsored by the League of Women Voters.
- Oct. 17, at 7:30 p.m., Wilton, League of Women Voters.

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