



Batt, Andrew <andrewb@iowapbs.org>

Request for clarification

rick <rick@rickstewart.com>

Wed, Sep 14, 2022 at 2:27 PM

Reply-To: rick <rick@rickstewart.com>

To: rick@rickstewart.com

Cc: "candidatecriteria@iowapbs.org" <candidatecriteria@iowapbs.org>, Joe Howe <je.howe2584@gmail.com>, Marco Battaglia <marcobattaglia@protonmail.com>

Andrew -

Thank you for your prompt response.

This is my official notification that I qualify for the Governor's debate being sponsored by Iowa PBS on October 6, 2022.

1. Candidate has been qualified by the Iowa Secretary of State's Office for a place on the general election ballot.

The SOS office will verify this, or you can check [here](#).

1. Candidate meets at least four (4) of the following five (5) criteria:
 - The candidate is the nominee of a political party recognized under state law, as determined by the Iowa Secretary of State's office;

This criteria is invalid as it requires that a candidate be a nominee of either the Republican or Democrat party. As you know the SOS office will tell you there are only two political parties in Iowa, Democrat and Republican. Thus this requirement precludes any Independent, and any member of Iowa's two Non Party Political Organizations (NPPOs), from ever participating in a debate.

Both on the face of it and from my legal advisors it is clear this is prejudicial against me, and inimical to democracy. We do not live in a two party state, nor do we live in a two party country. Iowan voters are not required to belong to either the Republican or Democrat party, and roughly one-third of them do not. This does not prevent them from running for public office.

Requirement 1, above, is sufficient to prove I am a valid candidate for Governor, as my name will appear on the ballot of every Iowa voter, along with the names of my Republican and Democrat opponents.

Thus I will qualify for your debate by meeting 3 of the 4 remaining criteria.

- The candidate 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;

I met this requirement on your own station during my appearance on Iowa Press, on August 19, 2022. You may also profit from investigating my website [here](#), where I make many public position statements.

- The candidate has accepted at least \$50,000 in cash contributions for the current election, as filed with and documented by the appropriate agency for campaign finance disclosure information for candidates for federal office;

I have accepted at least \$50,000 in cash contributions for the current election, however as you know this election is not a campaign for federal office, as the Governor is not a federal official, thus it is impossible for any candidate in the Governor's race to meet this criteria.

As you also know, the most recent reports to the Iowa Ethics & Campaign Disclosure Board contain information on contributions through July 14, 2022. As of this date my contributions were less than \$50,000. The next report will not be made until October 19, 2022, so it is not currently available for review. Please advise what information you will require to prove contributions I have received since July 15, 2022. I suggest copies of my campaign's bank statements will suffice.

- The candidate 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); and/or,

I have made many of these, you can see 5 of them [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

- The candidate has been named in a public opinion survey professionally conducted after the primary for the current election by an independent pollster the candidate has received a minimum of ten percent (10%) support, not including any margin of error. For the purposes of these criteria, "independent" shall mean the poll has not been commissioned or paid for by a candidate, campaign, political party, political action committee or any person or entity that financially supports the candidate's campaign.

I have not yet met this criteria.

9/15/22, 3:53 PM

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Thus I meet the required 3 of 4 criteria, and qualify for inclusion in the debate.

Please send me all the information necessary for my participation.

Respectfully,

Rick Stewart
Libertarian candidate for Iowa Governor

"In general, the art of government consists of taking as much money as possible from one party of the citizens to give to the other."
Voltaire (1764)

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