

Political Program Policy*

Bow Rotary Club Amended September 2020

- General:** It is the policy of the Bow Rotary Club to offer its membership a diversity of informative and entertaining weekly programs. At the beginning of each Rotary year, Club members are randomly assigned a "meeting program" date. It is the respective member's responsibility to secure a program that is of general interest to the Club's entire membership.
- Political:** Any member, who is assigned a "meeting program" date, may invite a candidate for public office to discuss his/her platform and/or the prime issue(s) of the day.
- Candidate:** Candidates running for the following public offices may be invited to present a political program:
1. Presidential Primary & General Election Presidential Candidates
 2. United States Senate
 3. United States House of Representatives
 4. Governor
 5. Governor's Council
 6. State Senate
- Program:** Whether a political program is presented or not is at the sole discretion of the member having the responsibility for that week's meeting program. No member will be told, nor will any member's program date be committed to a political candidate's presentation without the approval of the member who is responsible for that week's program.
- Balance:** Every effort will be made to ensure that political programs are balanced so that contrasting political parties, candidates, and political viewpoints can be aired and questioned. Thus, it is the Club's intent that no one party, candidate, nor single viewpoint should dominate.
- Frequency:** Although political-candidate programs may be scheduled, they should be interspersed with programs of a non-political nature.
- Positive:** The candidate must be positive in affirming his/her candidacy, not negative in attacking his/her opponent. The Club will not tolerate a negative presentation – in fact, the candidate may be asked to cease his/her presentation.
- Position:** The Bow Rotary Club is politically neutral. Candidates will be permitted to speak, but the Club will take absolutely no position with regard to either the candidate and/or the issue(s).
- Media:** The media, including print, radio, electronic, etc., will be excluded from our meeting area until after the conclusion of our regular meeting at approximately 8:30 AM.

* Board reviewed and re-approved this policy at its Board meeting on September 21, 2020.

* Original Draft by Eric Anderson, President 1998-99. The Board adopted this policy on August 3, 1998.

* Amended by Ben Kiniry, President Elect 2020-2021.