

GLVCC Candidate Appearance Policy

The Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce addresses issues of concern to business on the local, state and federal levels. We take proactive measures to ensure that government considers business objectives and viewpoints when drafting or enacting legislation.

As a 501(c)(6) organization the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce may engage in political activity. The Chamber is nonpartisan in its approach and does not endorse or oppose legislation based on political party philosophies or sponsorship. To facilitate education and the exchange of information between members and office holders or candidates, the Chamber will occasionally invite officials or candidates to address various groups. When conducting such events, the Chamber will:

- Allow sitting officials to speak in their official capacity or as experts on a particular topic. If a candidate, the official or Chamber may not mention their candidacy or the election. In this case the official's opponent does not have to be invited.
- In the case of a debate, provide an equal opportunity for all candidates to participate but will allow reasonable, objective criteria such as polling threshold or qualification to be on the ballot to limit participation.
- Invite all candidates for a particular seat to speak at an event, but continue with an event if some accept and some deny the invitation.
- Make a reasonable effort to provide equivalent forums if candidates are invited to speak at separate events (e.g., if one candidate is invited to speak at a large forum, other candidates must be invited to address events as large and as visible.)
- Not indicate support for or opposition to any candidate, explicitly or through biased presentation of topics or questions. This will be stated explicitly when the candidate is introduced and in communications concerning the candidate's attendance.
- Not allow political fundraising to take place at the event.

We believe that by using these Internal Revenue Service guidelines The Chamber will be able to fulfill its role as a conduit for information to its members while avoiding bias, or even the perception of bias, toward a particular candidate. This policy will be enforced fairly, equally, without bias, and within the sole discretion of the Chamber.

Action:

Presented draft to Executive Committee for discussion (February 8, 2016)

Approved by Public Policy Committee (February 17, 2016)