

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

David D. King Raises Question About 15% Polling Requirement for October 8 Wisconsin Gubernatorial Debate

MILWAUKEE, WI — August 27, 2026 — Independent write-in candidate for Wisconsin Governor David D. King is asking organizers of the October 8 gubernatorial debate to explain how an independent candidate can satisfy a 15% polling requirement when that candidate is not presented to voters as a named choice in the polling being relied upon.

King contacted representatives connected with the October 8 debate after learning that independent and third-party candidates would be required to receive at least 15% support in the Marquette Law School Poll or another established nonpartisan pollster to qualify for participation.

Glendale Mayor Bryan Kennedy responded to King's initial inquiry and explained that representatives of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Council, TMJ4 and UWM established the criteria when the event was announced.

King subsequently asked the organizers a straightforward question:

“How can an independent write-in candidate reach 15% in a poll if Wisconsin voters are not given that candidate's name as one of the choices?”

King also requested clarification concerning which other established nonpartisan polls would qualify, what standards would be used to recognize another pollster, and what opportunity exists for an independent candidate if qualifying polls do not include that candidate as a named choice.

As of the issuance of this release, King says he has not received an answer to those specific follow-up questions.

“This isn't about asking anyone to lower the standard for David King,” King said. “If there is a standard, give me a fair and meaningful opportunity to meet it. But if voters aren't given my name as a choice in the poll, how can that same poll determine whether Wisconsin voters should be able to hear me in the debate?”

King emphasized that he is not alleging that TMJ4, UWM, the ICC, Marquette Law School Poll or any other organization has violated the law.

Instead, he is asking for transparency about how the qualification process works for an independent write-in candidate.

“This is bigger than me,” King said. “Wisconsin voters deserve to understand how the process works. A poll should inform the people. It should not become a substitute for the people making their own choice.”

King is calling on Wisconsin media organizations and political reporters to examine the issue and ask whether independent candidates have a meaningful opportunity to satisfy debate qualification standards that depend upon polling.

King is also encouraging Wisconsin voters to look beyond polling numbers and learn about all of their choices before voting.

“Don't let the polls choose for you. Don't let the parties choose for you. You are the voter. You make the choice.”

King is running as an independent write-in candidate for Governor of Wisconsin in the November 3, 2026 general election.

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David D. King

Independent Write-In Candidate for Governor of Wisconsin

People Over the Parties

Wisconsin, You Have a Third Choice.

It's Our Time.

Authorized and paid for by King for Governor, Kara Ferguson, Treasurer.

Mr. King

Thank you for reaching out and inquiring about the criteria for inclusion in the debate for Wisconsin Governor on October 8 at UW-Milwaukee.

When we announced the event in March, our committee (representatives of the ICC, TMJ4, and UWM) established clear criteria to be inclusive of third party/independent campaigns. We used the same criteria that the Commission on Presidential Debates has utilized for its debates.

The attached press release from March indicates that we would include any independent/third party candidate who polls at 15% or better in the Marquette Law School poll or any other established nonpartisan pollster.

We will be watching the upcoming polls with interest, and we thank you for your desire to serve our state.

Bryan Kennedy, Ph.D.
Mayor, City of Glendale
Commissioner, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District