



POLITICAL POLICY

Adopted 9/15/2018

High Five Access Media does not differentiate between political speech and other forms of speech protected under the First Amendment. All Eagle County residents may become members of High Five Access Media, attend workshops to become certified community producers, and then create media to be shown on Channel 5 and its website, according to its [Community Access Policies and Procedures](#).

High Five Access Media Election Coverage

High Five Access Media staff strives to provide election information so voters may be civically engaged and make informed decisions about candidates and issues on non-primary ballots. Therefore, we seek to cover certain elections within Eagle County, with a focus on elections affecting Vail and Avon, which provide High Five Access Media with the bulk of its funding via franchise fees from Comcast subscribers. The following rules will guide the organization in its election coverage. Uncontested elections will not be covered.

Towns of Vail and Avon Elections

High Five Access Media provides a video voter guide for Vail and Avon town council elections. This entails free production of five-minute candidate profiles to be cablecast on Channel 5 and Live on Five, and also available online, on demand.

High Five Access Media will reach out to all candidates at the email address listed with election officials to offer the voter guide once nominees are certified. Video voter guides will be filmed at the access center and will be completed no later than one week before ballots are mailed to voters. A copy of candidates' remarks may be provided to High Five Access Media staff in advance to be displayed on and read from a teleprompter. All video voter guides will be available on the High Five Access Media website, and shown on Channel 5 in a block, with the order chosen randomly in advance. If a candidate is unable or unwilling to take part, these blocks will be preceded by a statement that all certified candidates have been invited to participate, some have chosen not to. All statements made in the video voter guides are the responsibility of the respective candidates.

High Five Access Media also may work on its own, or with local organizations, to provide free, nonpartisan coverage of candidate forums, provided that:

- All certified candidates are invited
- A majority of candidates are present

- High Five Access Media is included as a sponsor in marketing materials
- The forum takes place at least two weeks before ballots are mailed to voters

High Five Access Media may also provide a video voter guide and/or forum for town ballot issues affecting Vail and Avon residents where both a proponent and opponent are available to discuss the issue.

Other Elections Affecting Vail and Avon Voters

High Five Access Media strives to provide a video voter guide to candidates in elections that Vail and Avon residents vote for. This entails free production of three-minute candidate profiles to be cablecast on Channel 5 and Live on Five, and also available online, on demand.

High Five Access Media will reach out to all candidates at the email address listed with election officials to offer the voter guide once nominees are certified. Video voter guides will be filmed at the access center and will be completed no later than one week before ballots are mailed to voters. A copy of candidates' remarks may be provided in advance to be displayed on and read from a teleprompter. All video voter guides will be shown on Channel 5 in a block, with the order chosen randomly in advance. If a candidate is unable or unwilling to take part, these blocks will be preceded by a statement that all certified candidates have been invited to participate, some have chosen not to. All statements made in the video voter guides are the responsibility of the respective candidates.

High Five Access Media also may work with organizations to provide free, nonpartisan coverage of candidate forums that affect Vail and Avon voters, provided that:

- All certified candidates are invited
- A majority of candidates are present
- Forums are held in either Vail or Avon town council chambers
- High Five Access Media is included as a sponsor in any marketing materials
- The forum takes place at least two weeks before ballots are mailed to voters

These elections include Vail Recreation District, Eagle County School District, Eagle River Water and Sanitation District, Eagle County offices, state offices, and federal offices, and others not mentioned here.

High Five Access Media may also provide a video voter guide and/or forum for ballot issues affecting Vail and Avon residents where both a proponent and opponent are available to discuss the issue.

Elections Affecting Voters Outside Vail and Avon

High Five Access Media may be hired to create media highlighting other elections that do not affect Vail or Avon voters. This media must be shown on Channel 5 and its website. Any Eagle County candidates or their representatives also are encouraged to become member community producers who may create their own media to show on Channel 5 and its website. More information is available at highfivemedia.org.