



**TK 2.21**

**Political Development Speech Competition Guidelines**

Revised 2015

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### **Overview**

The New York State Women, Inc. Political Development (PD) Program is a mentoring program wherein the candidates will have interacted with peers developing their advocacy skills - - giving the opportunity to practice their networking, interpersonal relationship, interviewing and public speaking skills.

The Local Chapter recognizes a member or potential member who meets the criteria as a candidate to the Speech Competition and develops a mentoring partnership with another member or members to support the candidate to develop personally, professionally and politically. Their mentors should critique their skills, offer constructive criticism, nurture their strengths and guide them so that the learning experience helps their individual personal, professional and political growth.

The New York State Women, Inc. PD Competition recognizes the accomplishments of any women who takes an issue from the NYS Women, inc. legislative platform or advocacy statement and advocates for that issue.

The PD Program concludes with the Speech Competition held at the Chapter, Region (if desired a non-elimination competition can be held) and State levels. Selection is based on written and biographical information, judge's interviews, group interaction and prepared speech competition.

## Speech Competition Guidelines

### Eligibility

**All Political Development Program Speech Competition Candidates must meet the following criteria to be eligible:**

- 1) Membership in good standing of a Chapter of New York State Women, Inc. is required at the time of competing at the State Level, and
- 2) Has not competed in this program using the same topic in the last three years
- 3) Advocate for one issue from the NYS, Women, Inc. Legislative Agenda or Advocacy Statement (found on the NYS Women, Inc. website – nyswomeninc.org) by contacting a New York State legislator whose voting record opposes the issue you have selected, and
  - a) Write a letter to your legislator
  - b) Visit the legislator's office with other NYSW member(s) to convince the legislator to reconsider his/her position
  - c) Present a five-minute speech summarizing your advocacy efforts

**Each PD Candidate once selected by their Chapter is responsible for forwarding the following information for the State competition to the State Chair (see Leadership Directory for contact information) **by the deadline May 1.****

1. Submit a completed and signed New York State Women, Inc. PD Biographical Information form
2. Submit a signed copy of the New York State Women, Inc. Legislative Platform agreement, publicity/website permission form.
3. Submit the letter to your legislator.
4. Submit an outline of the Five-Minute Speech

### Selection of Judges

A minimum of three (3) impartial judges must be present at all competitive events.

- Judges should be familiar with the legislative platform, the mission and the objectives of New York State Women, Inc.
- To maintain impartiality, the State judges should not be a member of the same Chapter as the PD Candidates.
- Judges should be familiar with interviewing and presentation/public speaking.
- All judges should be briefed on all aspects of the competition in advance.

The same guidelines are required at Chapter and State levels.  
This will provide uniformity and a level playing field for the PD Candidates.

## **Judging and Scoring**

Candidate Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Judge Name \_\_\_\_\_

### 1.) **Biographical Information**

Each PD Candidate will complete and provide biographical information. Judges will use the following criteria to score biographical information:

<b><u>SCORING</u></b>	<b><u>POINTS</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>
Written Ability to Express Thoughts and Beliefs	1-5	_____
Content of Legislative Letter	1-5	_____
Advocacy involvement	1-5	_____
Chapter involvement, mentoring	1-5	_____
Community involvement	1-5	_____
GRAND TOTAL (Maximum 25 points)		_____

### 2.) **Individual Interview**

Each PD Candidate will be interviewed for a minimum of ten (10) to a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes. The focus of the interview shall be the Candidates knowledge of work, life, family balance issues, her/his knowledge of New York State Women, Inc. and its mission, vision and legislative platform or advocacy issues The goal of the interview is to assess how the PD Candidate interacts and responds to impromptu questions. Judges will use the following criteria to score the interview:

<b><u>SCORING</u></b>	<b><u>POINTS</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>
Ability to verbally express thoughts and beliefs	1-5	_____
Poise/Self-confidence	1-5	_____
Organization of thought / Expression of ideas	1-5	_____
Familiarity with and knowledge of NYS Women, Inc.	1-5	_____
Innovation and creativity in ideas	1-5	_____
GRAND TOTAL (Maximum 25 points)		_____

**4. Five Minute Prepared Speech**

- Each PD Candidate will give a five minute prepared speech
- Timing will begin when the PD Candidate begins speaking.
- The Candidate shall remain at the podium during their speech
- Speeches within +/- 15 seconds receive no deductions in points; 16 seconds or more over or under 5 minutes will be a 5- point deduction.

<u>SCORING</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>EXAMPLES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Preparation & Content	1–10	Good opening, logical, knowledge of subject	_____
Poise/Self-Confidence	1–10	Confident, relaxed manner, voice, posture	_____
Clarity	1–10	Word choices, ease of understanding	_____
Expression	1–10	Facial expression, gestures, eye contact, “speaking” versus “reading” to audience	_____
Adherence to Topic	1–10	Relevance, audience attention, creativity of the presentation, familiarity with the subject matter	_____

GRAND TOTAL(Maximum 50 points) \_\_\_\_\_ MINUS TIMING \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL SPEECH \_\_\_\_\_

**GRAND TOTAL SCORE** \_\_\_\_\_

**JUDGES INITIALS** \_\_\_\_\_

**TIE BREAKER, IF NECESSARY, please score**

Candidate understands the mission, vision and legislative platform of New York State Women Inc.

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Minimally | 1 |
| Somewhat  | 2 |
| Strongly  | 3 |

Judges Score \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand Total Score Including Tie Breaker Score** \_\_\_\_\_ **Judges Initials** \_\_\_\_\_

**NEW YORK STATE WOMEN, INC.**

**POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

This biographical information will be used in the judging process for the PD Program Competition.

You may attach additional sheets as necessary.

**PERSONAL DATA**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

New York State Women, Inc. Local Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal date: \_\_\_\_\_

**BACKGROUND**

Why is it important that you advocate for this issue?

What would you like the judges to know about your political, community and personal life?

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**MEMBERSHIPS**

NYSW, Inc. include your involvement in your local chapter, how your local chapter supported you through mentoring or other endeavors; Other organizations you belong to.

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**AGREEMENT FORM**

**INFORMATION FOR PUBLICITY PURPOSES:**

A press release announcing your participation in the New York State Women, Inc. Political Development Speech Competition may be sent out. For this purpose, please provide the names, addresses and telephone/fax numbers and e-mail addresses of your local newspapers, television and radio stations.

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I hereby grant New York State Women, Inc. my permission to use my name, profession and photographs for Press Releases.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA PERMISSION**

I hereby grant New York State Women, Inc. my permission to use my name, profession and photographs on the New York State Women, Inc. website and social media sites.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**New York State Women Inc. LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM and ADVOCACY STATEMENT**

Prior to signing, please read the Legislative Platform and Advocacy Statement found on the NYS Women, inc. website (nyswomeninc.org)

I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby agree with the New York State Women, Inc.'s Legislative Platform and Advocacy Statement and as a PD Candidate pledge to support it .

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_