

The Chamber of Deputies of the Province of Chaco
Passed as Law No. 7217

ARTICLE 1: Requirement for the discussions. Establish mandatory public pre-election debates among candidates for governor of the province and candidates for their first term in the provincial legislature, in order to raise awareness and debate before the electorate the government and legislative plans of the parties, fronts or political groupings.

ARTICLE 2: Scope of the requirement. The requirement set forth in the previous article includes gubernatorial candidates whose political groups, adding the votes on all the lists that contested within the same election, have obtained at least five percent (5%) of the votes validly cast in the open, simultaneous and mandatory primaries, as regulated by Law 7141.

In the case of candidates for deputy that exceed three percent (3%) of the votes, unless there are less than four (4), the requirement includes the four (4) first-term candidates whose political groups meet most number of votes in the primary elections.

ARTICLE 3: Issues for debate. The debates referred to in Article 1 shall address the following issues, at a minimum, in separate segments:

- a) Education, health and the environment.
- b) Security and justice.
- c) Economic development.
- d) Urban development and housing.
- e) Public services and infrastructure.
- f) Employment and social promotion.
- g) Gender equality.
- h) Indigenous peoples.
- i) Institutional quality and political corruption.
- j) Disabilities, youth and sports.
- k) Theme to be selected through social networks at the time of the debate.

ARTICLE 4: Grouping the issues. The issues listed in the previous article shall be grouped together to form two debates, one of which will take place in the capital of the Province and the other in a town in the interior as determined by the Electoral Tribunal.

ARTICLE 5: Dates and schedule of the debates. The dates of the debates shall be determined by the organizers, in coordination with the candidates, in an agreement that maintains a minimum of seven (7) days between the two and schedules the second debate a minimum of ten (10) days before the date the election.

The candidate debates for deputies will be held on different dates from those for governor.

The debates will be held between 21:00 and 23:00 on the scheduled days.

ARTICLE 6: Debate format. The time for debate will be organized so that the candidates have an initial period to deliver an overall presentation of their proposal, followed by time to address, in turn, the items

listed in Article 3. A final period will be for an exchange of questions and answers directly among participants.

ARTICLE 7: Debate locations. The locations where the debates take place must accommodate cameras and equipment for radio and internet, as well as include the necessary facilities for the work of accredited members of the press.

ARTICLE 8: Television broadcast. The live television broadcast of the debates established by this law shall be assigned by the Electoral Tribunal to any of the duly authorized free-to-air broadcast channels in the Province.

This signal will be freely accessible to the rest of the free-to-air and cable channels and websites operating in the province, as well as audio for radio stations.

The cost of the production and broadcast of the debates will be funded by the budget of the Ministry of Interior, Justice and Security of the Province.

ARTICLE 9: Moderation. The debates will be coordinated by a reporter randomly chosen from a list of three professionals agreed upon by the candidates, based on a proposal from the organizers.

ARTICLE 10: Penalties. Candidates, who by the provisions of Articles 1 and 2 of this, are obligated to participate in the debates and do not comply with this obligation, shall be punished with a reduction of fifty percent (50%) of the spots provided for audiovisual advertising, as established in Articles 27-35 of Law 7141.

The candidate must commit to the debates within five (5) days of announcing the intention to run, under the penalties stated in the preceding paragraph.

ARTICLE 11: Organizers. The organizers referred to in this law will be the Electoral Tribunal, which is empowered to regulate on all questions relating to the implementation of the debates.

ARTICLE 12: Term. This law shall take effect beginning with the executive and legislative elections to be carried out in 2015.

ARTICLE 13: Municipalities are invited to apply this rule for candidates for mayor and municipal council president.

ARTICLE 14: Registered and transmitted to the Executive.

Given in the Hall of the Chamber of Deputies of the Province of Chaco, the twenty-fourth day of April, two thousand and thirteen.

Rubén Darío GAMARRA
SECRETARY
CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

Eduardo Alberto AGUILAR
PRESIDENT
CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

April 25, 2013.-

Mr. Governor
of the Province of Chaco
Jorge Milton CAPITANICH

At the direction of the President, I have the pleasure of writing to you in order to submit Bill 7217, which was passed by the Chamber of Deputies at its regular meeting on April 24, 2013.

Sincerely,

Rubén Darío GAMARRA
SECRETARY
CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES