



## Debate/Forum Guidelines

### ***Moderation & debate rules***

1. Debates/forums should be moderated by a member of the media, academia, or an individual with experience moderating complex political debates
2. Opening remarks should be at least 3 minutes long
3. Closing remarks should be no more than 2 minutes long
4. All candidates must be able to respond when they are attacked/invoked by their opponents, even when not by name
5. No lightning rounds, yes/no, or speed rounds, where candidates only get a few words to respond to questions
6. No audience questions during the event. If an organization would like to have questions from its members or the public, these must be given to the moderator/s in advance. Only the moderator/s should know the questions in advance

### ***Security & audience interaction***

1. On-site security must be provided. Security professionals must be available to assist with crowd control before, during, and after the event
2. The audience must be instructed to remain quiet during the event. Any interruptions should be called out by the moderator, who should work to control the room. Attendees who repeatedly interrupt must be removed from the event

### ***Event logistics and public participation***

1. All campaigns must be given an equal number of reserved seats, with at least 3 reserved seats per campaign in the front row for recording/social media staff
2. Campaigns should be able to use their own signup forms for events
3. Holding rooms should be provided for each campaign before and after
4. When possible, there must be separate access to the stage for candidates so they are not forced to go through the crowd
5. Expectations around debate room size and the number of signups must be communicated ahead of time to all campaigns
6. NO electioneering is allowed at or near events without the agreement of all campaigns in advance. The focus must be on having the candidates engage with each other and the moderator, and answering the questions. Electioneering includes but is not limited to: picketing, waving signs, chants, and signature gathering