

April 14, 2024

Joint statement from news organizations on presidential debates

With the contours of the 2024 general election now coming into clear focus, we - the undersigned national news organizations - urge the presumptive presidential nominees to publicly commit to participating in general election debates before November's election.

General election debates have a rich tradition in our American democracy, having played a vital role in every presidential election of the past 50 years, dating to 1976. In each of those elections, tens of millions have tuned in to watch the candidates debating side by side, in a competition of ideas for the votes of American citizens.

Since 1988, the nonpartisan Commission on Presidential Debates has sponsored all presidential general election debates. The Commission has previously announced dates, times, and eligibility criteria for 2024 debates. Though it is too early for invitations to be extended to any candidates, it is not too early for candidates who expect to meet the eligibility criteria to publicly state their support for - and their intention to participate in - the Commission's debates planned for this fall.

If there is one thing Americans can agree on during this polarized time, it is that the stakes of this election are exceptionally high. Amidst that backdrop, there is simply no substitute for the candidates debating with each other, and before the American people, their visions for the future of our nation.

ABC News
The Associated Press
CBS News
CNN
C-SPAN
FOX News Media
NBCUniversal News Group
NewsNation
Noticias Univision (Univision Network News)
NPR
PBS NewsHour
USA TODAY