

Debates

The decision to attend, or not attend, an all-candidates debate can be a strategic one. Voters and media expect candidates to participate in all-candidate debates. Debates give candidates a platform to share their beliefs, agenda, and passion with a broad audience that includes supporters for all sides.

- Prepare and practice your opening remarks, and do not exceed the time allotted.
- Ask your supporters to attend with questions you can prepare for.
- Be polite and courteous with everyone throughout the event, including the hosts, staff, opponents, and the audience.
- Keep your temper. Remember that your opponents' supporters are likely in the audience, and may ask questions they know will agitate you.
- Keep your responses concise.
- If your opponents begin arguing back and forth, wait for an opportunity to calmly interject a balanced remark. You will be seen as a voice of reason, and the best person for the job.
- Unless you are answering a direct question from another candidate, aim your remarks at the audience.

