



The 2020 Presidential Debates

THE COMMISSION ON PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES



Case Western Reserve University & Cleveland Clinic
Cleveland, Ohio

THE FIRST PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Joe Biden
Donald J. Trump

Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic
Cleveland, Ohio
September 29, 2020



THE COMMISSION ON PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES

THE COMMISSION ON PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES

The Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD) was established in 1987 after two formal studies recommended the creation of a permanent, independent general election debate sponsor. Its primary purpose is to sponsor and produce debates for the United States presidential and vice presidential candidates and to undertake research and educational activities relating to the debates. The organization, which is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) corporation, has sponsored all of the presidential debates since 1988.

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CLEVELAND CLINIC

Cleveland Clinic was founded in 1921 by four prominent physicians with a vision to create a hospital based on the teamwork three of them had experienced in World War I military hospitals. Together, they established a doctor-led, not-for-profit medical center, a model unique for its time. Nearly 100 years later, the founders' vision remains Cleveland Clinic's mission: "Provide better care of the sick, investigation into their problems, and further education of those who serve."

What began with a staff of six surgeons, one radiologist, four internists and one biophysicist has grown into a worldwide and world-renowned healthcare system. Today, Cleveland Clinic employs more than 67,000 caregivers globally, with more than 4,500 salaried physicians and researchers, and 17,000 registered nurses and advanced practice providers, representing 140 medical specialties and subspecialties.

As a nonprofit multispecialty academic medical center, Cleveland Clinic integrates clinical and hospital care with research and education. The 6,026-bed health system includes a 165-acre main campus near downtown Cleveland, 18 hospitals, more than 220 outpatient facilities, and locations in southeast Florida; Las Vegas, Nevada; Toronto, Canada; Abu Dhabi, UAE; and London, England. In 2019, there were 9.8 million total outpatient visits, 309,000 hospital admissions and observations, and 255,000 surgical cases throughout Cleveland Clinic's health system. Patients came for treatment from every state and 185 countries.

Driven by a philosophy that discovery and innovation can improve patient lives, Cleveland Clinic has been a leading innovator, including pioneering open heart surgery, inventing coronary angiography, performing the first coronary bypass surgery, completing the first nearly full facial transplant, in addition to breakthroughs in cancer, heart disease, Parkinson's disease and stroke.

U.S. News & World Report consistently names Cleveland Clinic as one of the nation's best hospitals in its annual "America's Best Hospitals" survey. This year, U.S. News ranked Cleveland Clinic the No. 2 hospital in America and the No. 1 hospital for heart care and heart surgery for the 26th consecutive year.

Case Western Reserve University

One of the nation's leading research universities, Case Western Reserve enrolls more than 5,100 undergraduate students and nearly 7,000 graduate and professional students representing 94 countries. Our leading-edge offerings include the nation's 9th-ranked health law and social work programs, 11th-ranked nursing master's program, 18th-ranked biomedical engineering graduate degree, and 24th-ranked medical school.*

Located minutes from downtown Cleveland in the cultural hub known as University Circle, our park-like, urban campus is just steps away from some of world's top hospitals, museums and performance spaces—giving students a

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

chance to engage with academics and extracurricular activities in a diverse and engaging environment.

With expertise in everything from accounting to art history, polymers to political science, and statistics to systems engineering, our 3,500 campus and clinical faculty members are active scholars who bring their enthusiasm for research and innovation to students and colleagues.

Our graduates take what they learn here to make real-world impact. Among our more than 110,000 alumni, we count Paul Buchheit, creator of Gmail, Peter Tippett, developer of the first antivirus software, Fred Gray, legal defender of Martin Luther King, Jr. and John Lewis, among others, Frank Rudy, inventor of the Nike Air Sole, acclaimed film directors and actors, politicians, Nobel laureates, CEOs, authors and change-makers.

Visit case.edu to see how we think beyond the possible.

*U.S. News & World Report, Best Graduate Schools 2021 (released March 2020)

Health Education Campus of Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic

Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic launched a new era of health education when they opened the Health Education Campus in 2019.

The Health Education Campus of Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic features the four-story, 477,000-square-foot Sheila and Eric Samson Pavilion. The campus also includes a three-story, 132,000-square-foot dental clinic and the Newton Avenue Park. Approximately 2,200 students from the university's schools of dental medicine, nursing and medicine – including those in Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine – learn, study and collaborate together on the 11-acre campus.

Designed by London architects Foster Partners, the Health Education Campus was envisioned as a way to encourage interaction among future health care professionals in and out of the classroom. Its 27,000-square-foot atrium includes dining options, tables and comfortable chairs and couches where students can eat, study, and discuss their latest lessons. The campus features state-of-the-art technology including a virtual-reality anatomy curriculum, medical simulation center, flight nursing simulation program and touch-screen visualization tables for anatomy teaching.

The Health Education Campus of Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic is a joint project that the university and hospital first began working toward in 2013. In recent years, the two institutions have collaborated to develop shared courses and other experiences in which students from all of the health programs learn the fundamentals of team-based care while also practicing skills together in simulated settings and at actual clinical sites.

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Pool coverage of the September 29, 2020 debate
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DebateWatch2020

In 1992, the CPD organized focus groups around the U.S. to watch the debates, turn them off immediately after they ended and discuss what people had learned. The focus group participants unanimously said how valuable it was to talk about the debates in a civil way without being dismissed or criticized by those with different views. Thus was born DebateWatch, a voter education program established in 1996 which we have reinvigorated in 2020. DebateWatch is designed to bring people together to watch a debate, then turn it off at the end – before media commentary – and discuss what they saw and heard. Hosting a DebateWatch provides a communal viewing experience for participants. The goal is not to say who won or lost, it is to share views with those who may agree and those who don't. It is to listen respectfully to others' opinions. DebateWatch is a way to incorporate a town meeting into each debate. We have invited civic groups, libraries, and educational institutions, in particular, to join DebateWatch2020. Our 2020 participants represent all 50 states.

| | |
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| Agnes Scott College | Cottey College |
| Allegany College of Maryland | Dixie State University Institute of |
| American Association of State Colleges and | Politics and Public Affairs |
| Universities American Democracy Project | Duke University Polis: |
| Arizona Students Association | Center for Politics |
| Arkansas Tech University | East Carolina University |
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| Community College | Fairfield University |
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| Brown University Taubman Center and | Fork Union Military Academy |
| Swearer Center | Furman University |
| California State University East Bay | George Washington University |
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| Carter County Drug Prevention | Management |
| Central Arkansas Library System | Georgetown Debate |
| Centre College | Gonzaga University Debate Team |
| Chapman University | Grinnell College Rosenfield |
| Colby College | Program/PPPE |
| Columbia State Community College | Heidelberg University |
| Comal County Democratic Party | Hofstra University |
| Connecticut College Camels Vote | Houston Community College |
| Consumnes River College | Honors College |

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Howard Payne University
Speech and Debate Team
Illinois Institute of Technology
Illinois State University
Indiana State University
Indiana University East
Indiana University Kokomo
Indiana University North
Indiana University South Bend
Indiana University Southeast
Indiana University Debate Team
Indiana University Purdue
University Indianapolis
Jacksonville State University
James Madison
Center for Civic Engagement
John Carroll University
Arrupe Scholars
Johnson County Community College
Keene State College
Knox College Department of Political
Science and International Relations
Lewis & Clark College
Lincoln University
Lipscomb University
Lone Star College Montgomery
Center for Civic Engagement
Lone Star College North Harris
Lone Star College Tomball
Lone Star College University Park
Center for Civic Engagement
Los Angeles Metropolitan
Debate League
Loyola Marymount University
Marietta College
Menlo College
Mercer University Center for
Community Engagement
Metropolitan State University of Denver
Michigan State University
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Middle Tennessee State University
Mills College
Mississippi Votes
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NewsTalk 107.9 Idaho Falls/Pocatello
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Our Lady of the Lake University
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Yoknapatawpha Arts Council Project
Penn State University Brandywine
Rosemont College
Rutgers University Center for Youth
Political Participation
Rutgers University Newark
Sacred Heart University Pioneer Vote
Salem State University
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Public Affairs and Civic Engagement
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South Dakota State University
Southern Methodist University
Speech and Debate Program
Southern Oregon University
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Civic Justice
Telemundo News
The Power Coalition for Equity and
Justice
The State University of New York
Brockport
The State University of New York
Cortland

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| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| The University of Mississippi | University of North Carolina Pembroke |
| The University of Texas | University of North Texas |
| The LBJ School | Debate Team |
| The Weekly Spar | University of Richmond |
| Tougaloo College | University of South Carolina Beaufort |
| Towson University | Communication Studies Program |
| Trinity University | University of South Florida |
| Tulsa Debate League | Sarasota-Manatee Campus |
| Tunisia The Munathara Initiative | University of South Florida |
| University of Alaska at Anchorage | St. Petersburg |
| University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff | University of Utah |
| University of California Los Angeles | University of West Georgia |
| University of California San Diego | University of Wisconsin Parkside |
| University of Central Arkansas | University of Wisconsin Superior |
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| Volunteer UCF | Tommy G. Thompson Center |
| University of Central Missouri | on Public Leadership & Elections |
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| Debate Team | Utah Valley University |
| University of Georgia Georgia | Vanderbilt University |
| Debate Union | Vanderbilt University Debate Team |
| University of Illinois Chicago | Virginia Wesleyan University |
| University of Iowa HawkVote | Wabash College |
| University of Mary Washington | Washington State Debate Coalition |
| Debate Team | Washington University in St. Louis |
| University of Maryland | Washington Urban Debate League |
| Baltimore County | Waverly High School |
| University of Miami | Wayne State Forensic Union |
| University of Minnesota | Weber State University |
| University of Montana Max S. Baucus | Wesley College |
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| Administration & Policy and | Western Carolina University |
| Alexander Blewett III School of Law | Western Kentucky University |
| University of Nebraska at Omaha | Western Michigan University WeVote |
| University of Nevada Las Vegas | Wheaton College |
| Debate Team | Winona State University |
| University of New Hampshire Carsey | Worcester State University |
| School of Public Policy | Wright College |
| University of North Carolina | Yavapai College |
| Greensboro | |

For the current list of participants and to join, please visit
www.debates.org/debatewatch

THE COMMISSION ON PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES

International

Supporting the Global Movement for Candidate Debates

Given their central role in the elections, presidential debates in the United States are watched by audiences worldwide. Increasingly, other countries – particularly emerging democracies – believe that starting their own debate traditions will strengthen their elections and democracies. Often, they seek help in initiating debates. For more than 30 years, the CPD has responded to requests for assistance in a growing number of countries as they try to identify unbiased debate sponsors, choose substantive formats and impartial moderators, ensure fair and sound TV, radio and internet broadcasts, negotiate with candidates and the media, and engage citizens in the political life through debates.

The benefits of debates are many. To cite only two examples: Debates can also help voters make more informed choices at the ballot box. After the first ever 2014 presidential debates in Malawi, citizens reported that elections that year were more substantive and focused on issues that mattered to them personally. Debates also provided a useful side-by-side comparison of candidates and motivated them to vote. Similarly, in El Salvador, a media analyst noted in 2019 that one of the nation’s first presidential debates “...marked a milestone in [the country’s] nascent democracy...due to the clash of ideas and the presentation of the candidates to millions of compatriots in and outside of the country.”

Debates help promote peace and reconciliation in tense election environments. As an African debate participant stated, “The greatest thing about this debate is to see Liberian presidential candidates sitting here and talking to each other and trying to convince voters rather than being in the bush and shooting at each other.” Debates can provide an opportunity for candidates to publicly commit to peaceful elections. This includes agreeing to accept election results or using legal channels to resolve election disputes -- as occurred in Ghana, Kenya and other nations -- rather than calling supporters to the streets.

The CPD, in partnership with the National Democratic Institute (NDI), helps debate sponsors around the world share their expertise and assist each other, both in organizing debates for the first time and improving on past debates. The support draws on CPD and NDI collective experience with more than 425 debates in 45 countries at all levels of elected office. The underlying conviction is that there is no single best way to organize candidate debates and that countries should choose approaches that best fit with their culture and politics. CPD-NDI initiatives have included long-distance and in-country consultations with debate groups as well as multiple international symposiums in Washington,

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D.C., Mexico City, Mexico and Skopje, North Macedonia that brought together debate groups from around the world for the first time. Symposium participants have discussed practical issues such as establishing public criteria to determine which of dozens of candidates should be invited to debate; creating informative debate formats; producing debates; and working with the media to generate public support to encourage candidates to debate. The symposiums resulted in the creation of the 38-nation Debates International network and regional debate networks that foster ongoing conversation and consultation among members to tackle common challenges. Network resources include the Debates International on-line information center (www.debatesinternational.org) and Organizing and Producing Candidate Debates: An International Guide posted at the site.

To foster these international exchanges, the CPD and NDI have also hosted Debates International network members at U.S. presidential debates at Hofstra University (2012) and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (2016). The visits provided a first-hand look at the debate hall's production elements, media filing center, and wide-ranging educational programs at the universities to engage students and the community in debates. The international visitors shared their own recent debate experiences with each other; in addition, they met with students, faculty and the media. The impact of Covid-19 on global travel will prohibit holding the international visit in 2020. A gathering in Washington, D.C. is planned for 2021. The CPD expresses its deep appreciation to the Howard G. Buffett Foundation for making the international debate exchanges and programming possible.

Debates International Network: Participating Countries

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Argentina | Guatemala | North Macedonia |
| Brazil | Guyana | Panama |
| Canada | Haiti | Paraguay |
| Chile | Honduras | Peru |
| Colombia | Jamaica | Philippines |
| Costa Rica | Kenya | Serbia |
| Curacao | Lebanon | Sierra Leone |
| Democratic Republic of Congo | Liberia | South Korea |
| Dominican Republic | Malawi | Timor Leste |
| El Salvador | Mexico | Trinidad and Tobago |
| Ecuador | Nepal | Tunisia |
| Ghana | Niger | Uganda |
| | Nigeria | United States |

“Onward!”

Jim Lehrer, 1934-2020





www.debates.org