



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WA State Debate Coalition will host debates for U.S. Senate and WA-8th

Seattle, WA, June 27, 2018 – The Washington State Debate Coalition, founded by Seattle CityClub in 2016 to increase the frequency and quality of publicly accessible nonpartisan debates in Washington, will host three debates in the Fall of 2018—two debates for U.S. Senate and one debate for WA-8th. The debates will be held throughout the state in October and broadcast statewide by the Coalition’s media partners.

“In 2016, the Coalition focused exclusively on statewide races. This cycle, we’ve decided to include a Congressional District with national importance and a limited debate history,” says Diane Douglas, executive director of Seattle CityClub.

The following sites and co-hosts will host debates in 2018: Gonzaga University, Community Colleges of Spokane, Eastern Washington University, University of Washington, Washington State University Spokane, and Whitworth University (for a U.S. Senate Debate at Gonzaga University); Pacific Lutheran University, Bethel School District, Eatonville School District, Franklin Pierce School District, and Tacoma Public Schools (for a U.S. Senate Debate at Pacific Lutheran University); Central Washington University, Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce, Ellensburg School District, Kittitas School District, Thorp School District, Cle Elum-Roslyn School District, Easton School District, and Associated Students of Central Washington University (for a WA-8th Debate at Central Washington University). The dates of the debates will be finalized this summer.

Coalition leaders weighed applications representing 19 organizations across the state. The organizations included urban and rural Washington collaborations between educational institutions, business organizations and school districts from eastern, western and central parts of the state.

“Pacific Lutheran University is honored to host a U.S. Senate debate providing Puget Sound residents an important opportunity to hear directly from the candidates about how they will represent our state’s diverse regions,” said PLU acting president Allan Belton.

“Central Washington University is pleased and honored to partner with the Washington State Debate Coalition to host this debate between the candidates for the 8th congressional district,” said CWU President James L. Gaudino. “This is a race with national implications and we’re excited to be a part of an important event like this that elevates the political discourse.”

The Washington State Debate Coalition is comprised of 100+ civic leaders, nonpartisan organizations, colleges and universities and media partners committed to leading the nation in setting a higher standard for political debates. More information about the Washington State Debate Coalition is available at bit.ly/WADebate.

2018 Lead Sponsors include AARP Washington, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and The Norcliffe Foundation.

About the Washington State Debate Coalition

The Washington State Debate Coalition was founded by Seattle CityClub in 2016 to enhance Washingtonians' access to those who hold and seek our state's highest elected offices. With 1,800 debate attendees and over 1 million viewers on TV/online in its inaugural year, the Coalition created a solution that tapped into a strong public desire across the state for direct access to candidates.

About Seattle CityClub

Seattle CityClub is a nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization improving the civic health of the Puget Sound region by providing programs that bridge politics, sectors and generations to inform and engage residents and community leaders.

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