2018 ENGAGEMENT TOOLKIT

Enrich your debate watching experience with this guide organized by the Washington State Debate Coalition.
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Overview

The Washington State Debate Coalition will host three debates this fall. We encourage you to use this guide as a resource and tool to watch the debates alone or along with friends, neighbors, or family members.

Debates

- **U.S. Senate, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Sat. October 6**
  

- **WA-8th, Central Washington University, Ellensburg, Wed. October 17**
  

- **U.S. Senate, Gonzaga University, Spokane, Tue. October 30**
  
  Debate co-hosts include: Community Colleges of Spokane, Eastern Washington University, University of Washington, Washington State University Spokane, and Whitworth University.

About the WA 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.
2018 WA State Debate Coalition Members

Media

- Arlington Times/Marysville Globe
- Auburn Reporter
- Bainbridge Island Review
- Bellevue Reporter
- Bellingham Business Journal
- Bothell/Kenmore Reporter
- Bremerton Patriot/Central Kitsap Reporter
- Covington/Maple Valley/Black Diamond Reporter
- Crosscut
- Federal Way Mirror
- Forks Forum
- iFiberone
- Inlander
- Islands' Sounder
- Islands' Weekly
- Issaquah/Sammamish Reporter
- Journal of the San Juan Islands
- KBTC Public Television
- Kent Reporter
- KEPR TV
- KHQ
- KIMA TV
- Kingston Community News
- Kirkland Reporter
- KRQ Radio
- Kitsap Week
- KNDU
- KOMO Radio
- KORA
- KORK
- KPQ
- KREM
- KPS-TV
- KUNS
- KUNW
- KVI
- KVKG
- KXLY TV
- KAMC
- KOMO
- KONA
- KQED
- KREM
- KQED
- KUNW
- KVI
- KXLY
- WA STATE DEBATE COALITION | 206.682.7395 | CITYCLUB@SEATTLECITYCLUB.ORG

Civic Leaders

- Norm Dicks
- Dan Evans
- Slade Gorton
- Christine Gregoire
- Gary Locke
- Rob McKenna
- Ralph Munro
- Sam Reed
- Bill Ruckelshaus

Nonpartisan Organizations

- Henry M. Jackson Foundation
- Seattle Rotary IV
- Slade Gorton International Policy Center
- Washington Nonprofits
- YMCA Youth & Government

Colleges + Universities

- Bellevue College
- Big Bend Community College
- Central Washington University
- Columbia Basin College
- Community Colleges of Spokane
- Cornish College of the Arts
- Eastern Washington University
- Olympic College
- Spokane Falls Community College
- The Evergreen State College

WA STATE DEBATE COALITION | 206.682.7395 | CITYCLUB@SEATTLECITYCLUB.ORG
Don’t Forget to Vote!

For information about Washington State voter registration deadlines, voter eligibility, and instructions on how to register, visit the Washington State elections website.

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

- **October 8**—Deadline for voter registration, address change, and other updates.
- **October 6-13**—State voters’ pamphlets are mailed to every household in Washington State.
- **October 19**—Start of 18-day voting period. Deadline for ballots to be mailed out and Accessible Voting Units are available at voting centers. County Elections Departments may mail ballots before this date. Expect delivery of your ballot no later than October 25.
- **October 29**—Deadline for in-person new Washington State Voter registration.
- **November 6**—General Election – Drop boxes close promptly at 8 p.m.
BEFORE THE DEBATE

Questions for Discussion

■ What are you hoping to learn from the debates and the candidates?

■ What Washington state priorities would you like the candidates to address?

Share your answers on social media using the hashtag #waelex
Plan a Debate Watch Party

Hosting a watch party is a fun way to engage in the debate and discuss the issues related to your community in a friendly environment with other civic-minded people.

FILL THE ROOM

Send Out Those Invites | Make sure to get the word out early and often for people to join you at your Debate Watch Party. Here’s some sample wording you can use to contact people about your party:

Sample Message

*I’m throwing a watch party for the debate this Saturday at my house and I would love for you to stop by. We'll have some fun with debate BINGO and trivia!*

If you’re holding a larger public event, consider submitting a calendar listing to your local newspaper, radio station, or community newsletter. Many media outlets have online event submission tools on their website, or you can call the outlet directly and ask if they offer a listing of community events. Here’s some sample wording you can use for a calendar listing or article:

Sample Event Language

*Join other civic-minded residents at Flatstick Pub for a free debate viewing party from 6:30pm - 8pm, Saturday September 22. Get to know your candidates while having fun!*

Keep Track | When promoting your event, it’s a good idea to ask for RSVPs including email addresses or telephone number. You’ll want to have an idea of how many people might attend your event, especially if it’s open to the public.

Keep in Touch | Whether it’s by mail, phone, social media, or all of the above, make sure you remind people of your upcoming event. If you’re worried about becoming a pest, consider sending a reminder one week out from the event and another the day before. You can also consider sending calendar invites as a follow-up to RSVPs to make sure the event gets on your guests’ calendars!

INVITE TEMPLATES

Here are invite templates you can customize and download:

- Email Invite
- Paper Invite

EVENT CALENDARS

- City of Ellensburg
- City of Seattle
- City of Spokane
- City of Tacoma

CAN’T HOST A DEBATE?

Encourage others to host debate watch parties and share the 2018 Engagement Toolkit with them.
MAKE IT FUN

Debate BINGO | Gamifying the debates is a great way to engage your guests. We’ve put together a list of terms you can use to create your own “Debate BINGO” cards. The rules of the game: if any of the terms listed on your card come up in the Debates, mark them off on your card. The first person to mark 5 in a row (across, down, or diagonal) wins!

Alternative rules for larger groups: Each round of the game can have a different goal. Ex: Round 1: the winner is first one to get 5 across; Round 2: first one to mark 5 down; Round 3: first one to mark 5 diagonal; Round 4: First one to mark all corners; Round 5: First one to blackout the whole board.

Candidate Trivia | During commercial breaks, challenge your guests with a trivia game of fun facts about the candidates. Tally up the points as you go, and whoever answers the most questions correctly by the end of the party wins!

Resources for Educators and Campus Life

FOR TEACHERS

Strategic Note-Taking | Taking notes can be an excellent way to stay engaged and learn more from watching the debates. Provide your students with some note-taking tips for how to get the most out of the debate.

(see pg. 11)

Extra Credit Assignment | Have your students select a current issue to research in-depth before the debate and formulate their own opinions. Then, during the debate, have the students take notes and form an assessment on how each candidate addressed this issue.

(see pg. 11)

CAMPUS LIFE

Programming for Resident Assistants | Plan a debate watch party for your residents! Use the common room to livestream the debate in the residence hall. Use some of the game suggestions from the Make it Fun section of this toolkit to make it lively and engaging!
INFORMING VOTERS THROUGH ART

In partnership with Amplifier, a design lab using art to spur community engagement, we commissioned an art campaign evolving a long-standing piece of American culture—the Uncle Sam recruitment poster—for the Washington State Debate Coalition. Our goal is to encourage Washingtonians to know who their candidates are and to vote.

Opportunities to Share

- Giveaway artwork to friends, family members, and colleagues.
- Share the artwork with your social media network by posting the download link.
- For Campuses: Mount the artwork in campus hallways and common areas.
- For Businesses: Mount the artwork in your storefront or office.

DOWNLOAD ART

KIM WYMAN
Secretary of State, Washington

From left to right—1) Sarah Studer, Impact Hub Seattle 2)Michael Padilla, Seattle Works, 3) Raychelle Durazo, Artist
DURING THE DEBATE

Engage in Meaningful Discussions

- Share facts, figures, and insights.
- Before you chime in, understand what you’re commenting on.
- Avoid rants and keep it civil.

*Share your findings on social media using the hashtag*

#waelex
Ask the Right Questions

As you watch the debate, ask yourself questions and during commercial breaks, discuss the same questions with others around you. For example:

- Do the questions cover the major issues, including the issues that are important to you?
- Do the candidates provide clear and direct answers?
- Do the candidates provide strong evidence for their arguments?
- Do the candidates discuss their policies more than they discuss their opponents?
- Are the candidates statements consistent with their previous positions, and if not, do they explain why?

GO SOCIAL

Use the official Washington state election hashtag #waelex with your debate-related posts on social media.

- Engage other residents and tweet at the individual candidates if you have specific questions.
- Follow the online discourse rules.
- Use Facebook to engage with friends, family members and candidates.
- Follow the candidates on social media:

  **Maria Cantwell**: Facebook, Twitter
  **Susan Hutchinson**: Facebook, Twitter
  **Dino Rossi**: Facebook, Twitter
  **Kim Schrier**: Facebook, Twitter

JOIN THE LARGER PUBLIC CONVERSATION WITH #WAELEX | WADEBATES.ORG
How to Assess an Argument

The RSA Triangle | There are 3 criteria used to evaluate a good argument:

- **RELEVANCE**
  The premise(s) of the argument must be relevant to the conclusion—is there a logical connection within the argument?

- **SUFFICIENCY**
  The premise(s) must provide sufficient support for the argument’s conclusion—is there enough evidence to support the argument?

- **ACCEPTABILITY**
  The premise(s) of the argument must be acceptable—is the evidence of the argument socially accepted as true?

**TAKE NOTES**
Download and use the following Debate Watch Worksheet to track candidates arguments using your new knowledge.

**Worksheet**

**What is an argument?** It is a group of statements including one or more premises and one and only one conclusion.

**What is a premise?** It is a socially accepted fact or value that provides the starting point for a potential conclusion. There can be one or many premises in a single argument.

**What is a conclusion?** It is a statement in an argument that indicates of what the arguer is trying to convince the reader/listener. What is the argument trying to prove? There can be only one conclusion in a single argument.
AFTER THE DEBATE

Questions for Discussion

- What impressed/surprised you about what you heard?
- Did you hear anything that makes you feel more optimistic (or worried) about our future?
- Did the debate help inform your vote?

Share your answers on social media using the hashtag #waelex
Generate Powerful Conversations

Be Curious and Open to Learning | Listen to and be open to hearing all points of view. Maintain an attitude of exploration and learning.

Show Respect and Suspend Judgment | Setting judgments aside will better enable you to learn from others and help them feel respected.

Look for Common Ground and Appreciate Differences | Look for what comments you can agree on and appreciate that you will disagree on some opinions.

Be Authentic and Welcome that from Others | Share what’s important to you. Be considerate to others who are doing the same.

Be Purposeful and to the Point | Be mindful if what you’re conveying is or is not directly relevant to the question at hand.

Own and Guide the Conversation | Take responsibility for the quality of your participation and the quality of your conversation.

GO SOCIAL

Continue the conversation after the debate by posting your comments and observations using the hashtag #waelex on social media.

- Tweet about compelling candidate arguments that may have changed your opinion.
- Send candidates your follow-up questions and comments.
- Share your thoughts and opinions on topics that weren’t discussed during the debate.
- Create a quick poll to gauge what others are thinking after the debate.

Voting Resources

- Contact your county elections department to request a ballot or other voting materials or make a change to your voter registration.

DID YOU KNOW?
The hashtag #waelex is active during all Washington state elections. Utilize it to connect with candidates, organizations, and other civic-minded residents.
- Learn about all the offices up for election this year in Washington state.
- View the Washington State elections calendar.
- Follow the latest elections results here.

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- Washington State Tree Fruit Association

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DEMOCRACY STARTS WITH YOU

Your active engagement strengthens our democracy.

WA DEBATE COALITION

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