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## **Seattle CityClub and GSBA Announce Four 2023 Seattle City Council Debates**

**Civic group to host candidates for Seattle City Council Districts 1, 3, 4 and 5**

**SEATTLE — Aug. 3, 2023** — Seattle CityClub and GSBA announced today they will convene four Seattle City Council candidate debates in October, focusing on the four races without an incumbent.

The debates, hosted with several community, civic and media partners, will include live audiences at each of the venues and be available to viewers via live TV and radio broadcasts and video and audio webstreams.

“With a significant change in leadership coming to the Seattle City Council, including four open seats, voter education and engagement is more important than ever,” said Alicia Crank, Executive Director of Seattle CityClub. “Candidate debates have long been a staple of our democratic process in that they enable voters to hear directly from those seeking public office while providing opportunity for discussion and rebuttal on key public policy issues. Seattle CityClub has played an integral role in convening both local and statewide candidate debates and is proud to continue that tradition this election year in partnership with Comcast, GSBA, and the Seattle Colleges.”

“It is a very important election year for Seattle and GSBA is thrilled to be partnering with Seattle CityClub on these debates in October,” said Ilona Lohrey, CEO and President of GSBA-Washington state’s LGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce. “With so many seats on the council open this year, including in District 3-Capitol Hill, which has the highest density of small businesses in the entire state, it is more important than ever for voters to be educated about their choices, and to be engaged in this election.”

“Seattle Colleges is excited to foster civic engagement by hosting City Council debates this year,” said Dr. Bradley Lane, Interim President at Seattle Central College. “Democracy requires people actively participate in the political process and these debates will help our community stay informed and hear a full range of voices before casting their ballots.”



This year’s debates will be executive produced by Jillian Raftery with technical leadership and support from the following media partners: Converge Media, Crosscut, FOX13, KING 5, KIRO Radio, KUOW, Rainier Avenue Radio, and The Seattle Times

The two general election candidates from each race have been [invited to participate in the following events in October, all slated for 7 p.m.:](#)

- Tuesday, Oct. 3: Seattle City Council, District 1 debate at South Seattle College
- Tuesday, Oct. 10: Seattle City Council, District 3 debate at Seattle Central College
- Thursday, Oct. 12: Seattle City Council, District 4 debate University of Washington HUB
- Tuesday, Oct. 17: Seattle City Council, District 5 debate at North Seattle College

Moderators, media panelists and details about how to suggest questions for all of the debates will be announced in the coming weeks.

“Comcast is proud to be partnering with CityClub and GSBA to sponsor these important Seattle City Council debates,” said Marianne Bichsel, Vice President External Affairs for Comcast, Pacific NW Region. “The City of Seattle is undergoing monumental change and facing huge issues such as housing affordability, downtown revitalization, public safety, homelessness and much more. Debates such as this reveal the values and priorities of each candidate and help voters decide who is best to lead our city through this change.”

“Voter education and engagement are important to the mission of Seattle CityClub and our partners. Each of these events requires the dedicated support and careful coordination of local media partners to provide the caliber of debates we are known for,” added Crank.

“We are extremely grateful to our Media Partners, institutions of higher education and countless other partners who are working so hard to make this year’s debate cycle a success.”

### **About Seattle CityClub**

For over 40 years, Seattle CityClub, a nonpartisan nonprofit, has provided programs that inform, connect, and engage people around civic issues to help strengthen our region. The organization connects elected and community leaders with the public at Civic Cocktail, dives into local issues through Civic Boot Camp, and keeps elected officials accountable through a variety of programs including Legislative Preview, Year in Review, and state and local debates. For more information, visit [SeattleCityClub.org](http://SeattleCityClub.org).



**About GSBA**

GSBA is Washington State’s LGBTQ+ and allied chamber of commerce, and the largest in North America. They represent small business, corporate, and nonprofit members who share the values of promoting equality and diversity in the workplace. GSBA proudly serves as a connector across the state, bringing the community together through business including complimentary business consulting and classes, while advocating for civil rights and small business in Olympia, promoting LGBTQ+ tourism through Travel Out, and investing in the next generation of leaders through The GSBA Scholarship & Education Fund.