



# 2025 SEATTLE CITY CLUB DEBATES

## KING COUNTY EXECUTIVE DEBATE



**Claudia Balducci**



**Girmay Zahilay**

**DEBATE RESOURCE GUIDE**

# ABOUT THE DEBATES

Public debates are a cornerstone of democracy, offering voters the chance to hear directly from candidates before casting their ballots. This election season, Seattle CityClub will host a series of free, public debates that bring candidates and communities together for thoughtful, moderated conversations.

Highlights include the Seattle Mayoral Debate, co-hosted by Seattle CityClub and Formidable, where **Mayor Bruce Harrell** and **Katie Wilson** will share their visions for the city's future, and the King County Executive Debate featuring **Girmay Zahilay** and **Claudia Balducci** as they discuss priorities on housing, transportation, climate action, and more.

Audiences can expect dynamic exchanges on the most pressing issues facing our region, with opportunities to attend in person or watch through live broadcasts with our media partners.

With decades of experience producing trusted civic forums, Seattle CityClub and Formidable are committed to ensuring voters have clear, accessible, and reliable information as they make decisions that shape our future.



# ABOUT SEATTLE CITYCLUB

Seattle CityClub was founded in 1981 as a nonpartisan, civics-focused nonprofit providing a platform for insightful and educational conversations that include a diverse range of perspectives.



@seattlecityclub



# DEBATE MODERATORS



## **John Hopperstad**

*Co-anchor of FOX  
13 Seattle's Good  
Day Seattle*

John Hopperstad is co-anchor of Good Day Seattle weekdays from 4:30 to 6 a.m. His reporting is featured in the later hours of the morning program. He is a Seattle native (well, Lake Forest Park), and a graduate of the University of Washington.

He learned at a young age to bypass umbrellas no matter how hard it rains. After a stint in the U.S. Army as a Military Police Officer and several years reporting on TV in the great state of Maine, he returned home to the warmer and wetter climate of Washington state.



## **Angela Poe Russell**

*Co-host and  
Executive Producer  
of Converge Media's  
Community Voices*

Whether it is for television, radio or for a theatrical stage, Angela loves bringing untold stories to the forefront. Her work is shaped by a 25-year career in journalism, where she nurtured a passion for in-depth storytelling. Angela is the co-host and Executive Producer of Converge Media's Community Voices, a contributor for KIRO News Radio, and a Playwright in Residence at Seattle Public Theatre, where her new musical Aviaatrix is set to debut in May 2026.





[Watch Past Civic Cocktails](#)



# NEWS & LINKS

## Candidate Websites

[Girmay Zahilay >](#)

[Claudia Balducci >](#)

## Articles covering the King County Executive Race:

[FOX 13 Seattle >](#)

[KUOW >](#)

[South Seattle Emerald >](#)

[Seattle Times >](#)

[Cascade PBS >](#)

## Register to vote

[Washington State DOL >](#)