



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Alicia Crank
Seattle CityClub
206.426.8706
aliciac@seattlecityclub.org

WA State Debate Coalition Announces Three 2022 Debates

Civic group hosts candidates for U.S. Senate, 8th Congressional District and Washington Secretary of State; Coalition to Partner with Other Organizations on Candidate Events for Other Races

SEATTLE — Sept. 15, 2022 — The [Washington State Debate Coalition](#) (WSDC) today announced it will convene three candidate debates in October, focusing on key races for the U.S. Senate, the 8th Congressional District and Washington Secretary of State.

The debates, hosted in partnership with area universities and community centers, will include live audiences at each of the venues and be available to viewers statewide via live TV and radio broadcasts and video and audio webstreams.

As a coalition, the WSDC is committed to ensuring free, public access to live, moderated debates between candidates holding and/or seeking elected office. It operates under the umbrella of, and with resources procured by, Seattle CityClub, a 501C3 organization.

In keeping with its mission, the WSDC will also partner on three additional election events next month. This includes debates for the 9th Congressional and 26th Legislative Districts, in concert with Braver Angels, a non-partisan civic group working to depolarize and bring more civility to our political culture. The group is using the two events to test ideas for better debates, and is currently [surveying Washington voters](#) in partnership with the Debate Coalition on what issues are most important to them. The survey results will help inform questions in the debates.

The WSDC is also pleased to announce it will partner with the Spokesman-Review and League of Women Voters in convening candidates for U.S. Senate in Spokane next month.

“This is an exciting election season, and we are pleased to play an integral role in facilitating candidate debates and making sure as many people as possible have an opportunity to see them. Thanks to our higher education, community and media partners, the Washington State Debate Coalition is expanding its civic service this year to include debates in communities across Washington,” said Alicia Crank,

executive director of Seattle CityClub. "Now, more than ever, it is important for voters to hear directly from candidates for public office. From the environment and education to the economy and elections, it is critical that this year's candidates share their vision for the future and that we provide voters with direct access to leaders."

This year's debates will be produced with technical leadership and support from [TVW](#), Washington state's public affairs network.

"TVW is proud to partner with the WSDC on this year's debates and provide voters with direct, unfiltered access to candidates seeking elected office," said TVW President & CEO Renee Radcliff Sinclair. "Debates remain a vital part of our democratic process and the citizens of Washington deserve to hear directly from the candidates who want to represent them. Providing open access to state government is an integral part of our work and we are excited to be a part of the Debate Coalition's programming again this year."

The two general election candidates from each race have been invited to participate in the following events in October:

- **Saturday, Oct. 15:** 26th Legislative District (Emily Randall/Jesse L. Young) debate at 3 p.m. at the Norm Dicks Government Center in Bremerton, in partnership with Braver Angels.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 18:** Washington Secretary of State (Julie Anderson/Steve Hobbs) debate at 7 p.m. in Schneebeck Hall at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma.
- **Sunday, Oct. 23:** U.S. Senate candidate forum (Patty Murray/Tiffany Smiley) at 5 p.m. at the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center at Gonzaga University in Spokane, in partnership with the Spokesman-Review and League of Women Voters.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 25:** 9th Congressional District debate (Doug Basler/Adam Smith) at 2 p.m. in Pigott Hall on the campus of Seattle University, in partnership with Braver Angels.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 25:** U.S. Senate debate (Patty Murray/Tiffany Smiley) at 7 p.m. in Pigott Hall on the campus of Seattle University.
- **Friday, Oct. 28:** 8th Congressional District debate (Matt Larkin/Kim Schrier) at 7 p.m. in McConnell Auditorium at Central Washington University in Ellensburg.

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

WSDC Program Partner and AARP Washington Advocacy Director Cathy MacCaul said voting is the most powerful tool we have to help direct the course of our government.

"Right now, Americans age 50+ are struggling with higher prices at the grocery store and gas pump. Many are still vulnerable to the health and financial threats of COVID-19. And some are facing a crisis with retirement savings," said MacCaul. "As one of the strongest voting blocks, older voters want to hear from the candidates to ensure that the people they vote for represent their interests. Through debates like these, we can provide the information that voters need to make the best decision for themselves this November."

"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 Premiere Media Partners, institutions of higher education and countless other partners who are working so hard to make this year's debate cycle a success."

While every race on the ballot deserves a spotlight, the WSDC is limited by its non-profit resources. The coalition's goal is to grow in scale each year to provide voter access to an even greater number of candidates.

About the Washington State Debate Coalition (WSDC)

Founded by Seattle CityClub in 2016, the WSDC has produced public debates across the state, including events for gubernatorial elections and U.S. Senate races, serving an audience of over 3 million people. The WSDC is supported every election cycle by media, education, and civic partners committed to the belief that making public debates available to all is crucial to a functioning democracy.

About WSDC Program Partner AARP

The WSDC is proud to partner with AARP Washington on this year's debate programming. AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With a nationwide presence and nearly 38 million members, AARP strengthens communities and advocates for what matters most to families: health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment. AARP also produces the nation's largest circulation publications: AARP The Magazine and AARP Bulletin. To learn more, visit www.aarp.org, www.aarp.org/espanol or follow @AARP, @AARPenEspanol and @AARPadvocates, @AliadosAdelante on social media.

About Seattle CityClub

For 40 years, Seattle CityClub, a nonpartisan nonprofit, has provided programs that inform, connect, and engage people around civic issues to help strengthen our region. For more information, visit SeattleCityClub.org.

###