

Debate Rules for Candidates

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| <p>(1) In order to participate, candidates must arrive and be prepared to begin before the designated start time for the debate.</p> <p>(2) There will be no opening statements. In lieu of opening statements, each candidate will be given the opportunity to provide to each attendee a one sheet handout with whatever information they want to provide about themselves. This sheet can be handed out at the door, or placed on seats in the venue by the campaigns. VTPPF will not be responsible for handing out this information at the venue, but VTPPF will make this information available on the VTPPF website for those not in attendance. If this sheet contains any information about another candidate its distribution will be disallowed.</p> <p>(3) Straws will be drawn before the debate to determine the order of responses to the questions. The shortest straw draw will go first, followed by each subsequently longer straw draw. That order will shift by one for each question. For example 1,2,3,4 then 2,3,4,1, then 3,4,1,2; etcetera. The initial draw will also determine the order or stage placement of the candidates, i.e. the short straw will be positioned on the audience left and the long straw will be audience right. There will also be a draw for the order of closing remarks.</p> <p>(4) Questions will be solicited from individuals prior to the debate, and moderators will select from among those questions.</p> <p>(5) There will be an official time keeper and each candidate will have up to 90 seconds to answer a question. There will be green, yellow and red lights visible to the candidates. Green will signal when 30 seconds are left in the answer time; yellow will signal 10 seconds remaining and when the red light illuminates, the candidate must promptly finish their response. If necessary, the debate staff will disable candidate microphones or otherwise cut the candidate off immediately upon expiration of the time as shown on the time clock.</p> | <p>(6) Each candidate will be given one “Red Card” to be used to ask a question of another candidate of his choosing. At the discretion of each candidate, but only once during the debate, candidates may show this “Red Card” to invoke the privilege to ask any other candidate a question on any subject. (Choose carefully because you will only be able to invoke this privilege ONE time during the debate). The candidate who is “Red Carded” will have 90 seconds to reply, and there will be no rebuttal by the candidate asking the question</p> <p>(7) Each candidate will be given three “Green Cards” to be used for rebuttals to statements of other candidates. At the discretion of each candidate, but only three times each during the debate, candidates may raise a “Green Card” to invoke the privilege and immediately upon the conclusion of remarks by the current speaker, be given a 30 second rebuttal. (A candidate may use a Green card at any time, but choose carefully because you will only be able to invoke this privilege THREE times during the debate). Upon usage, each card will be deposited in a box adjacent to the candidate.</p> <p>(8) We encourage answers to the questions to be about what each candidate stands for/believes and we strongly discourage answers that attempt to portray what another candidate stands for/believes.</p> <p>(9) Electronic communications devices (cell phones, iPads, smart watch, etc.) will not be permitted at the candidate podiums in order to ensure candidate responses are coming from the candidates themselves.</p> <p>(10) Each candidate will have 90 seconds at the close the debate to use as he/she wishes. This time may be used to respond to comments made during the debate, or to give a closing statement.</p> |
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A very special thanks to **Goochland High School’s Young Conservative Club** for their assistance the debate!