



ELECTION 22

Watch Party Toolkit

Connecticut Political Debates 2022

Connecticut Public, in partnership with the League of Women Voters of Connecticut, presents a series of eight weekly political debates between the key candidates in advance of the midterm November 2022 elections, including debates for the statewide offices of Governor and Secretary of the State, as well as U.S. Senate and Connecticut's five U.S. Congressional districts.

This toolkit provides all you need to to host a **Debate Watch Party**. A Debate Watch Party provides a forum for you, your family, friends and community members to watch the Debates live and hear directly from candidates, broaden your understanding of the issues and how they impact your community, and, engage in productive conversation with others.

To Begin: choose the Debate or Debates you would like to watch for a Debate Watch Party. For instance, you may want to watch the candidates in your district debate, as well as the Governor's debate, and host two debate parties.

All debates will be live, every Thursday at 8 p.m. beginning September 15 through October 27, and Tuesday October 25 on the following platforms::

- CPTV ([Check your local listing](#))
- WNPR (90.5 FM and 88.5 FM)
- [Ctpublic.org](https://www.ctpublic.org)
- Facebook ([@ctpublic](#))
- Youtube - [Connecticut Public](#)
- Instagram ([@ctpublic](#))
- Twitter ([@wnpr](#))
- TikTok ([@ctpublic](#))

Weekly Debate Schedule

**Dates and Times are subject to change based on candidate availability.
Check ctpublic.org/vote for the most up to date information*

Secretary of State

Stephanie Thomas (D) -
Dominic Rapini (R)
Tuesday, October 18 at 8pm
University of Hartford,
Lincoln Theater, West Hartford, CT
Moderated by: Walter Smith Randolph

U.S. House of Representatives, 1st Congressional District

John Larson (D - incumbent)
and Dr. Larry Lazor (R)
Tuesday, October 11th at 8pm
Manchester Community College,
SBM Charitable Foundation
Auditorium, Manchester, CT
Moderated by: Ray Hardman

U.S. House of Representatives, 2nd Congressional District

Joe Courtney (D - incumbent) and
Mike France (R)
Tuesday, October 4th at 8pm
Eastern Connecticut State University,
Fine Arts Instructional Center
Auditorium, Willimantic, CT
Moderated by: Catherine Shen

U.S. House of Representatives, 3rd Congressional District

Rosa DeLauro (D - incumbent) and
Lesley DeNardis (R)

**This event will not occur due to
candidate viability and scheduling
conflicts.**

U.S. House of Representatives, 4th Congressional District

Jim Himes (D - incumbent) and
Jayme Stevenson (R)
Thursday, October 13th at 8pm
Norwalk Community College, David
Levinson Theater, Norwalk, CT
Moderated by: Khalilah Brown-Dean
U.S. House of Representatives, 5th

Congressional District

Jahana Hayes (D - incumbent) and
George Logan (R)
Thursday, October 20th at 8pm
Central Connecticut State University,
Torp Theater, New Britain, CT
Moderated by: Frankie Graziano

Senate

Richard Blumenthal (D - incumbent)
and Leora Levy (R)

**This event will not occur due to
candidate viability and scheduling
conflicts.**

Gubernatorial

Ned Lamont (D - incumbent) and
Bob Stefanowski (R)

**This event will not occur due to
candidate viability and scheduling
conflicts.**

For more details visit ctpublic.org/vote

To learn more about the candidates visit
www.vote411.org/connecticut

Watch Party Checklist!

Prior to the Debate:

- Choose the location of your Debate Watch Party
- Choose your host/discussion moderator
- Select date or dates
- Select time and platform (TV, radio, or streaming on website or social)
- Invite your guests one month prior (See sample invitation at the end of the toolkit)
- Let Connecticut Public know when and where your debate party will be held. Simply click "[Submit An Event](#)" button on our Event calendar and your event will be added to our website. **The first 25 that list their watch party on the Connecticut Public event page will receive a swag bag!**
- Confirm guests with a reminder email
- Send link to candidate profiles
- Coordinate technical needs for streaming or broadcast
- [Plan refreshments and beverages](#)
Enjoy this patriotic cocktail [recipe](#) from CT Public's Chef Plum, host of [Seasoned](#) and [Restaurant Road Trip](#). Choose from more fun recipes from the [Seasoned collection](#) here.
- **Submit your questions for the candidates in advance of the debates [here](#).**

Host/Moderator Duties During the Debate Watch Party

- Welcome guests
- **Provide overview** As we watch the debate we encourage everyone to listen actively as we check off the topics on the bingo cards that we hear the candidates mention, along with the initials of the candidate that mentions the topic. Following the debate we will discuss the questions and the candidates' answers.
- **Distribute BINGO Topic cards**
Check off each word or topic as the candidate mentions it. Use our Debate Watch Policy Bingo Card or create your own with topics important to your audience (See Printable Bingo cards at the end of the toolkit)
- **Distribute Questions for discussion (OR ASK AT END OF DEBATE)**
Make it a safe space. These issues are important and impact people's lives and people often have strong opinions. Make sure people are respectful of each other and that everyone gets a chance to talk.
- What did you like about what the candidates said? Why?
- What did you not like? Why?
- Was anything that the candidates said surprising to you?
- Did the candidates not talk about something that matters to you?
- What are the issues that are most important to you?
- What issues were not discussed?
- Invite guests to Post on Social Media #VoteCT
- Register people to vote.

Bring a laptop and ask people if they need to register or update their registration at vote.gov. You can find more information about your state's voter registration and more at 866ourvote.org/state Or VOTE411.org/connecticut

Post pictures and comments on your social platform of choice #VOTECT and tag @ctpublic.

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Printable Documents

Sample Invitation

ELECTION 22

Debate Watch Party | (JOIN US)

Join us for a debate watch party

When:

Where:

Who:

Come prepared!

- Think about the issues and candidates in advance, and what issues matter most to you as a voter.
- What do you want to hear from the candidates about the issues that matter most to you?
- Visit the candidates' websites and read recent news coverage.
- What are the major topics dominating headlines?
- How are the candidates talking about pressing issues facing our community and our country?
- Think about the questions you have and the information you want to get from the debate to help you in your decision making as a voter.
- Open your mind to new opinions/impressions of the candidate regardless of party affiliation.

Debate Watch Policy Bingo

Check off each topic as it is mentioned. This Card is a Debate Watch Tool – Use it as a guide to a post-debate Q & A

JOB	ECONOMY	EDUCATION	HOUSING	SAFETY
ENVIRONMENT	GUN LAWS	IMMIGRATION	CIVILITY	HEALTHCARE
COVID	CHILDCARE	FREE SPEECH	TRANSPORTATION	INFRASTRUCTURE
MENTAL HEALTH	ENVIRONMENT	TAXES	SOCIAL JUSTICE	ELECTION INTEGRITY
PRIVACY RIGHTS	MEDIA BIAS	GENDER EQUALITY	DRUGS	WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Debate Watch Policy Bingo
Predict what issues will be discussed



Issues that were not mentioned:
