



Before the debate watch:

- ✓ Advertise your space as a Debate Watch facility at least one week in advance
- ✓ Invite patrons, community members, friends, and/or family to join you in viewing the debate
- ✓ Set the meeting time for at least a ½ hour before the debate begins
- ✓ Add a social element (include food and beverages – maybe potluck)
- ✓ Think about the seating arrangements – everyone should be able to see and hear the debate
- ✓ Reference fact-finding sites that will help participants learn about the candidate's positions
- ✓ Encourage participants to submit debate questions at WSKGvotes.org. (make it fun – offer prizes if any of the questions get asked during the debate)
- ✓ Be sure you know how to access the debate
- ✓ Consider establishing ground rules for keeping the atmosphere civil

During the debate watch:

- ✓ Encourage viewers to introduce themselves to one another
- ✓ Remind everyone that the purpose is to better get to know the candidates and their positions on policies
- ✓ Tune into the debate a few minutes early. It airs at 8:00 P.M., Thursday, October 21 on WSKG Radio, WSKG TV and at WSKG.org. It's also available live on the PBS app.



After the debate watch:

- ✓ Turn off the screen and take a short break
- ✓ As a whole group or in small groups ask some of the debate debriefing questions
- ✓ Allow people to share their perspectives – no one needs to agree just be willing to listen

Ground Rules for a debate watch:

Listen to the candidates with an open mind

Pay attention to the issues and opportunities addressed

Look for non-response responses to questions

For example:

Degrading the opponent

Scapegoating - blaming others for issues

Avoidance - talking about something totally unrelated

Understand that everyone has a right to their opinions about policies and parties. The goal of a debate watch is not to convince others to agree with one another but rather to listen and learn more about the candidates

Debate Debriefing Questions:

Did the candidates provide straightforward responses?

What surprised you?

What topics were addressed well?

What topics would you have liked to hear more about?

What wasn't addressed that should have been?

Did this debate help you learn more about the candidates and their policy positions?

Did your thinking about the candidates change in any way?