General Election Debate Comptroller 2013
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Tuesday, October 8, 2013  |  7:00 PM
NY1 Studios
75 Ninth Avenue
New York, NY 10011

The New York City Campaign Finance Board is a nonpartisan, independent city agency that enhances the role of New York City residents in elections. The CFB’s mission is to increase voter participation and awareness, provide campaign finance information to the public, enable more citizens to run for office, strengthen the role of small contributors, and reduce the potential for actual or perceived corruption.

The CFB is charged with administering the mandatory Debate Program, in concert with various civic and media partners who sponsor the debates. It is a cornerstone of the CFB’s voter education efforts and provides New Yorkers with an opportunity to compare candidates side by side as they discuss the important issues facing the city. The debates help ensure New Yorkers are well-informed as they head to the polls to cast their vote.

Candidates for citywide office who participate in the Campaign Finance Program and meet certain debate criteria must participate in debates prior to an election in which he or she is on the ballot. Candidates who opt out of the Campaign Finance Program may also be invited to join the debates at the discretion of the CFB and sponsoring organizations, provided the candidates meet the same criteria.
The **COMPTROLLER** is the city’s chief financial officer. The comptroller’s responsibilities include: keeping the mayor and the City Council informed about the city’s financial condition; making recommendations about the operations, fiscal policies, and financial transactions of the city; auditing city agencies and investigating all matters concerning the city’s finances; registering and auditing contracts; issuing and selling city bonds; managing the city-held sinking funds and other trust and pension funds; and performing analysis to eliminate waste and fraud in city operations. The comptroller earns an annual salary of $185,000.
John Burnett
Republican, Conservative, School Choice

John Burnett is the Republican Candidate for NYC Comptroller. He’s a native New Yorker and a former compliance, operations and risk-management professional in the financial services industry. He is running on a platform of increasing government transparency, accountability and performance; bolstering the City’s pension funds to protect retirees and taxpayers alike; and expanding contracts to minority and women owned businesses throughout the city.

John has overseen financial advisors and global wealth portfolio managers at the world’s most prestigious financial institutions including Morgan Stanley, Smith Barney and Merrill Lynch. He earned a B.A. from NYU and an M.B.A. from Cornell University.

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Scott M. Stringer
Democratic, Working Families

Throughout his career, Scott has dedicated himself to building a strong middle class for New York, taking on critical issues such as affordable housing, school overcrowding and growing small businesses.

As Manhattan Borough President since 2005, Scott has transformed the office into a watchdog for taxpayers, exposing waste and mismanagement at NYCHA, the Department of Buildings and the Board of Education.

As an Assemblymember from 1992 to 2005, Scott authored landmark legislation protecting survivors of domestic violence. He lives on Manhattan’s Upper West Side with his wife, Elyse Buxbaum, and their two young sons, both under 2.

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**Brian Lehrer** is host of The Brian Lehrer Show, WNYC Radio’s Peabody Award-winning daily call-in program, that has served as New York City’s public square for almost 25 years. The show covers politics and life, locally and globally, and engages listeners on-air and online. Lehrer has been hailed by The New York Times as a “master interviewer,” while Time magazine called the program “New York City’s most thoughtful and informative talk show.” The Brian Lehrer Show airs weekdays from 10am-noon on WNYC 93.9 FM, AM 820 and wnyc.org.

**Errol Louis** joined NY1 in November 2010 as political anchor and host of “Inside City Hall,” the city’s premiere news program covering New York politics and government. He regularly interviews top newsmakers, including Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Governor Andrew Cuomo and former governors David Paterson and George Pataki, as well as authors and filmmakers including Ken Burns, Robert Caro, Ralph Nader and Howard Dean.
NY1 News is the city’s only 24-hour local TV news channel. Since our launch in 1992, one of our primary missions has been to educate New Yorkers about local politics and government. And while others have cut back on political coverage, NY1 has done the opposite. No other TV station devotes as much time and resources to the subject. No other TV station has a team of reporters assigned to City Hall and the state capital. And no other TV station has a nightly public affairs program dedicated exclusively to local politics and government.

NY1 Noticias, now in its 10th year, has a similar mission. Since 2003, the city’s only 24-hour Spanish-language news channel has provided unsurpassed Spanish-language coverage of New York politics and government, with a special focus on Latino issues. No other Spanish-language station devotes as much time and resources to the subject. And no other Spanish-language station has a weekly public affairs program, Pura Politica, dedicated to local politics and government.

WNYC Radio is the nation’s most listened-to public radio station, comprising WNYC AM 820, WNYC FM 93.9, and wnycre.org. Through stellar news, public affairs and cultural programming, WNYC extends New York City’s cultural riches to the entire country, while bringing the world home by airing the best national offerings from affiliate networks NPR, Public Radio International American Public Media, and the British Broadcasting Company (BBC).

The Citizens Committee for New York City’s mission is to help New Yorkers—especially those in low-income communities—come together and improve the quality of life in their neighborhood.
Citizens Union of the City of New York is a nonpartisan good government group dedicated to making democracy work for all New Yorkers. Citizens Union serves as a civic watchdog, combating corruption and fighting for political reform. The organization works to ensure fair and open elections, honest and efficient government, and a civically-engaged public. Its members are New Yorkers from diverse backgrounds and political beliefs who are connected to their communities and united in their commitment to put the city’s long-term interest ahead of all special interests.

Gothamist is the first site in the Gothamist LLC network of blogs and is the most popular local blog in New York. It has been described by The New York Times as a “marvelous, not-to-be-missed Web site” that “reflects everything worth knowing about this city.”

Hispanic Federation was created to empower and advance the Hispanic community. Hispanic Federation provides grants to a broad network of Latino non-profit agencies serving the most vulnerable members of the Hispanic community and advocates nationally with respect to the vital issues of education, health, immigration, economic empowerment, civic engagement and the environment.

Transportation Alternatives’ mission is to reclaim New York City’s streets from the automobile, and to advocate for bicycling, walking and public transit as the best transportation alternatives. Founded in 1973, our 100,000 active supporters throughout the five boroughs are committed to reclaiming New York City’s streets for people.
2013 Debate Program Schedule
Citywide Offices | General Elections

MAYOR

Tuesday, October 22, 7PM
TV: CBS 2 News (English), WLNY-TV 10/55 (Spanish)
Radio: 1010 WINS, WCBS Newsradio 880

Tuesday, October 29, 7PM
TV: NBC 4 New York (English), Telemundo Nueva York (Spanish)
Radio: WOR Radio

COMPTROLLER

Tuesday, October 8, 7PM
TV: NY1 (English), NY1 Noticias (Spanish)
Radio: WNYC

Thursday, October 24, 7PM
TV: CBS 2 News (English), WLNY-TV 10/55 (Spanish)
Radio: WCBS Newsradio 880

Debate will be cancelled if there is only one candidate who meets the criteria.

All debates listed will be broadcast live and streamed live on each sponsor group’s website. Dates and times are subject to change.

For more information, visit www.nyccfb.info/debates.

Our Debate Sponsors