

# Debate Watch Discussion Guide & Trivia Quiz



Gathering information about the candidates is an important part of our political process. As New York City's official Debate Program begins, we hope that you will use each of these debates as an opportunity to engage your neighbors, family and friends in a discussion about the future of our city.

To help you get started, we've provided a list of questions we hope will spark some thoughtful conversation both before and after the debates, and help you to make the most informed decision possible in the ballot booth on Election Day. Enjoy.

## Pre-Debate Discussion

To get ready for the debates, here are some questions that should help you think about what the candidates should be saying — and what they will be saying.

- What issues do you think are the most important in this campaign?
- What issues do you think the candidates will focus on in the debate?
- What issues do you want to hear the candidates talk about?
- What does each candidate need to achieve in this debate?
- What are the potential pitfalls for each candidate?

## Post-Debate Discussion

Here are some questions that will help you play pundit, and help focus your discussion the debate and its impacts on the campaign as a whole.

- Which candidate had the best command of the issues?
- What issues should have been covered but weren't?
- If you are undecided, which candidate did the best job in winning your vote? Why?
- Who were the debate's winners? Who were the losers? Why?
- What was the best line of the night? Which lines do you think fell flat?
- Did the debate format provide for an interesting and informative exchange? Why or why not?
- How much of an impact do you think the debate will have on the outcome of the race?

## Just for Fun: NYC Political Trivia

Looking to test your civic knowledge and learn more about New York's political history? Here are a few questions for you...with a few facts about the Campaign Finance Program thrown in, to be sure.

- When was the Campaign Finance Board created? (1988)
- What is the matching rate for an eligible contribution? (6:1)
- What is maximum amount of a contribution that the CFB will match? (\$175)
- How many City Council members are there? (51)
- What day is the primary election? (September 15) What day is the general election? (November 3)

- What percentage of the vote does a city-wide candidate have to achieve in a primary to avoid a run-off? (40%)
- Are candidates in NYC allowed to accept contributions from corporations, LLCs, and partnerships? (No)
- What is the maximum contribution that any one individual can make to a City Council candidate? (\$2,750)
- How long are council terms? (4 years)
- If this is a vacancy in the mayor's office, which elected office is next in line to serve as mayor? (Public Advocate)
- Name the last five mayors in order, starting with the most recent. (Michael Bloomberg, Rudy Giuliani, David Dinkins, Ed Koch, Abe Beame)
- Name the last five comptrollers in order, starting with the most recent. (Bill Thompson, Alan Hevesi, Elizabeth Holtzman, Harrison Goldin, Abe Beame)
- Which Supreme Court Justice served on the NYC Campaign Finance Board? (Sonia Sotomayor)
- What year was the first CFB-sponsored debate? (1997)
- Which was the last year the mayoral candidates failed to debate even once? Who were the candidates? (1993; Rudy Giuliani and David Dinkins)
- What is the traditional residence for the mayor of New York? (Gracie Mansion)
- Who was the first mayor of New York City? (Robert Van Wyck)
- What other still-existing building was used as New York City's City Hall? (The Federal Building)
- On what street was the first City Hall building located? (Pearl Street)
- How old do you have to be to run for City Council? (18)
- What Manhattan neighborhood is physically connected to The Bronx? (Marble Hill)
- Who was the last Mayor of New York City to run for President? (John Lindsay)
- Who was the last Mayor of New York City to be elected to any higher office? (Ardolph Loges Kline — 1 term in Congress; Spent nearly 4 months as mayor in 1913)
- In what year did the five boroughs consolidate into New York City? (1898)
- Which mayor was nicknamed "The Little Flower"? (Fiorello LaGuardia)
- Who was the last City Council President? (Andrew Stein)
- Which campaign finance system regulates the District Attorney's races in each borough? (State Election System)
- What is the job responsibility of the city's comptroller? (The Comptroller manages the assets of the five New York City Pension Funds, performs budgetary analysis, audits city agencies, registers proposed contracts, etc.)
- What is the State of New York's contribution limit for candidates running for statewide office in a general election? (\$37,800)
- What is the City's contribution limit for a candidate for citywide office? (\$4,950)
- What was the public funds matching rate for the 1989 election — the first election with the Campaign Finance Program? (\$1-to-\$1, up to the first \$1,000 per contributor)
- How many deputy mayors are there? (7)
- How many Republicans were elected mayor in the 20th century (who were they)? (5; Seth Low, Ardolph Loges Kline, Fiorello LaGuardia, Rudolph Giuliani, Mike Bloomberg)
- Who was the last Democrat to serve as the Mayor of New York City? (David Dinkins)
- Who was the first Speaker of the City Council? (Peter Vallone Jr.)
- In the history of the City, what was the longest amount of time between two non-consecutive terms for a single Mayor? (23 years — William Havemeyer served as mayor from 1845-46, from 1848-49, and again from 1873 until he passed away in 1874)
- Name a president who at one point was a NYC official and the office did he held. (Theodore Roosevelt, Police Commissioner)