

THE STATE OF ARIZONA  
CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF VIRTUAL DEBATE WORK GROUP MEETING

Phoenix, Arizona

April 13, 2023

10:02 a.m.

**Miller Certified Reporting, LLC**  
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1 DEBATE WORK GROUP MEETING OF THE CITIZENS CLEAN  
 2 ELECTIONS COMMISSION, convened at 10:02 a.m. on April  
 3 13, 2023.  
 4  
 5 ATTENDEES:  
 6 Commissioner Mark Kimble, Chairman  
 7 Thomas Collins, CCEC, Executive Director  
 8 Gina Roberts, CCEC, Voter Education Director  
 9 Avery Xola, CCEC, Voter Education Manager  
 10 Mike Becker, CCEC, Policy Director  
 11 Paula Thomas, CCEC, Executive Officer  
 12 Alec Shaffer, CCEC, Web Content Manager  
 13 Cathy Herring, Staff  
 14 Morgan Dick  
 15 Renaldo Fowler  
 16 Karl Gentles  
 17 Tara Jackson  
 18 Christine Jones  
 19 Chris Kline  
 20 Jodi Liggett  
 21 Rodd McLeod  
 22 Lee Miller  
 23 Anusha Natarajan  
 24 Constantin Querard  
 25 Bradley Reece  
 Bob Robson  
 Paul Senseman  
 Lisa Simpson  
 Pinny Sheoran  
 May Tiwamangkala  
 Jim Torgeson  
 Kathy Tulemello  
 Bob Karp  
 Nathan Madden

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P R O C E E D I N G

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 3 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Call to order the April 13th  
 4 meeting of the Candidate Debates Workgroup is called to  
 5 order.  
 6 Before we get started, I just want to go through a  
 7 little bit of an introduction; I know we have some people  
 8 here today who were unable to make it last week.  
 9 I'm Mark Kimble, one of -- one of five appointed  
 10 members of the Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission;  
 11 and I want to thank each one of you for sharing your very  
 12 valuable time in a service that I know will directly impact  
 13 Arizona voters.  
 14 As I think most of you know, the Commission is  
 15 entrusted by the voters with providing non-partisan and  
 16 factual voting information to the entire state. We take  
 17 that mission very seriously, and as part of that mission,  
 18 the Commission organizes and sponsors debates among  
 19 candidates running for the legislature and for all statewide  
 20 offices.  
 21 We have convened this working group to identify  
 22 opportunities for improvements in our debate process. We  
 23 will respect the importance voters placed on debates when  
 24 they passed the Clean Elections Act and we will continue the  
 25 tradition of sponsoring Arizona's official debates in a

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1 meaningful and impactful manner.  
 2 Thank you very much for taking part in this  
 3 process.  
 4 And with that we'll move on to Item II, discussion  
 5 and possible action on meeting minutes for March 29th, 2023.  
 6 I think all of you received the meeting minutes for  
 7 the last meeting. Would any member like to make a motion to  
 8 approve the minutes?  
 9 MEMBER ROBSON: Mr. Chairman, I move that the  
 10 minutes be approved.  
 11 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Bob. Is there a  
 12 second?  
 13 MEMBER MCLEOD: Second.  
 14 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: It's been moved and seconded that  
 15 we approve the minutes.  
 16 All those in favor of approving the minutes from  
 17 the March 29th Candidate Debates Workgroup meeting say  
 18 "aye."  
 19 (Chorus of ayes.)  
 20 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: All those opposed?  
 21 (No audible response.)  
 22 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Meeting -- the minutes are  
 23 approved.  
 24 Item III, discussion and possible action on  
 25 referring recommendations for what makes a successful debate

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1 for a voter and for a candidate to the Candidates Debate  
 2 Workgroup Official Report.  
 3 At our last meeting in March, the group discussed  
 4 what makes a successful debate for a voter and for a  
 5 candidate. In your packet you received a list of the key  
 6 points the group made. This agenda item is to consider  
 7 referring these points for inclusion in the group's official  
 8 report of any recommendations.  
 9 Would any member like to discuss any of the items  
 10 on the list? Feel free to raise your hand electronically or  
 11 wave in the screen or anything you would like to do to get  
 12 my attention.  
 13 (No audible response.)  
 14 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: No comments at all on the -- on  
 15 the recommendations?  
 16 MEMBER ROBSON: Other than you captured everything  
 17 we talked about.  
 18 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Well, I can't take credit for  
 19 that, but I think Gina did a very good job of capturing  
 20 everything that -- that we discussed.  
 21 Is there any member who would like to make a motion  
 22 to refer these recommendations to the Candidates Debates  
 23 Working Group Official Report?  
 24 MEMBER ROBSON: So moved.  
 25 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Is there a second?

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<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>1 MEMBER GENTLES: Second.</p> <p>2 MEMBER MCLEOD: Second.</p> <p>3 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: It's been moved and seconded that</p> <p>4 we refer these recommendations to the Candidate Debates</p> <p>5 Workgroup Official Report.</p> <p>6 All those in favor say "aye."</p> <p>7 (Chorus of ayes.)</p> <p>8 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: All those opposed say "nay."</p> <p>9 (No audible response.)</p> <p>10 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: The motion is approved.</p> <p>11 Item IV, presentation from the Clean Elections</p> <p>12 Commission staff on the format and rules for debates -- for</p> <p>13 debates used in the 2022 debate cycle.</p> <p>14 I want to turn this over to Gina Roberts, our Voter</p> <p>15 Education Director.</p> <p>16 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you, Chairman Kimble. Good</p> <p>17 morning, members.</p> <p>18 This presentation is to help provide background and</p> <p>19 set you up for the next few agenda items where you will be</p> <p>20 discussing the format, including the structure of the</p> <p>21 debates, but also potentially rules of engagement for the</p> <p>22 candidates, things to that point. So, I would like to share</p> <p>23 with you all what we did in the 2022 debate cycle for -- for</p> <p>24 candidates.</p> <p>25 I do have some slides to share, so bear with me</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>1 while I share my screen.</p> <p>2 Okay. So unless I hear otherwise, I will assume</p> <p>3 that you can see my screen. And I just two have slides to</p> <p>4 share with you.</p> <p>5 So in 2022 the way we scheduled our debates -- and</p> <p>6 we made reference to this in the last meeting where our</p> <p>7 debates kick off after we know for sure which candidates</p> <p>8 have qualified for the ballot and the challenge period has</p> <p>9 occurred. And then we try to conclude those debates before</p> <p>10 the start of early voting, that way once a voter has their</p> <p>11 ballot in their hand, they have access to all of the</p> <p>12 debates.</p> <p>13 We schedule our events one event per evening.</p> <p>14 That's just sort of the capacity that we have to operate</p> <p>15 with with our staff and our vendors, so we schedule one</p> <p>16 event per evening.</p> <p>17 We do not -- and try -- we do not schedule events</p> <p>18 on religious holidays. So we -- we take effort to look at</p> <p>19 the calendar to make sure we are not scheduling events on</p> <p>20 religious holidays that could prevent a voter from</p> <p>21 participating in the debate. And we also do not schedule</p> <p>22 them on Saturdays or Sundays. We prefer not to schedule on</p> <p>23 Fridays if possible, but sometimes we -- we have to because</p> <p>24 we just simply don't have any other date or time available.</p> <p>25 The debates start at 6:00 p.m. We do ask the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>1 candidates to log in at 5:30 -- and I am speaking here</p> <p>2 specifically to legislative debates; I should clarify. The</p> <p>3 debates do begin at 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>4 And depending on how many candidates are</p> <p>5 participating, if it's a single candidate, we allow a</p> <p>6 30-minute Q&amp;A; if it's more than one candidate, the debates</p> <p>7 will last at a minimum of one hour. At that point it's the</p> <p>8 moderator's discretion how they long they want to go past an</p> <p>9 hour, they sort of have to read the room: Are the</p> <p>10 candidates still engaged, are the voters/the audience still</p> <p>11 engaged?</p> <p>12 We do one event per district. And this is</p> <p>13 something that is an agenda item for -- for the group to</p> <p>14 discuss. So if it's a Legislative District 1 event, what</p> <p>15 that means is in the debate for that evening, so if LD-1 is</p> <p>16 scheduled for Tuesday at 6:00 p.m., that means Tuesday at</p> <p>17 6:00 p.m. all candidates that are running in LD-1 that have</p> <p>18 a contested election are invited. And we include them all</p> <p>19 in the same discussion. So that means we do not separate by</p> <p>20 party or by Chamber, so you would have both the Senate and</p> <p>21 the House candidates and the Republicans and Democratic</p> <p>22 candidates and if there's Libertarian, they would all be</p> <p>23 speaking during that one event. It would be considered just</p> <p>24 a single debate with all of those candidates.</p> <p>25 To that end, our moderator does notify the audience</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>1 about who is actually running against who, who the opponents</p> <p>2 are; and the moderator takes extra care to ensure that</p> <p>3 opponents have the opportunity to engage one another</p> <p>4 directly. So it really comes down to the moderator ensuring</p> <p>5 that we have a true debate between the true opponents.</p> <p>6 The questions come from the voters in advance and</p> <p>7 during the debate. During the debate we have a dedicated</p> <p>8 phone line and e-mail set up regards to call, text, or</p> <p>9 e-mail their questions in real time and we pass those along</p> <p>10 to the moderator. We do screen them, of course, to make</p> <p>11 sure there's no attacks on candidates or, you know, nothing</p> <p>12 inappropriate, and we send those over to the moderator</p> <p>13 throughout the debate.</p> <p>14 Prior to the debate, we do have stock standard</p> <p>15 questions prepared just in case maybe the audience, you</p> <p>16 know, for LD-1 is quiet; and we do share those with</p> <p>17 candidates in advance.</p> <p>18 So during the debate, how it occurs is the first</p> <p>19 thing that will occur at 6:00 p.m. will -- so it's through</p> <p>20 Zoom and we're live streaming through our YouTube channel</p> <p>21 and that's how voters can tune in. The moderator will kick</p> <p>22 things off and they'll introduce the event, you know:</p> <p>23 Welcome everybody, here's the LD-1 event, and will give a</p> <p>24 few factual pieces of election information such as, you</p> <p>25 know, ballots got out in the mail on this date or the voter</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Miller Certified Reporting, LLC www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com</p>

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1 registration deadline is this date. So introduction lasts  
2 maybe about two minutes.  
3 Then -- and the moderator will also explain to the  
4 voters, to the audience, what the rules for the evening are.  
5 Then we turn it over to the candidates and the  
6 candidates have one minute for opening and closing  
7 statements, and then we jump into the questions. And the --  
8 so, I'm sorry, before we get to the questions.  
9 How we decide who speaks first among the  
10 candidates, the order for opening statements, we just simply  
11 go by alpha order by last name and we start with the Senate  
12 and then the House candidates and then we reverse that for  
13 our closing statements.  
14 And then when the questions come in after, we go  
15 through those opening statements, candidates have one to  
16 two minutes for their response. These are not hard limits  
17 as in the moderator is watching the clock, you know, they're  
18 watching the time, but we don't have any visual cues. We  
19 don't have time, you know, indicators; we don't have a  
20 timekeeper, and we don't mute candidates, you know, once  
21 their time is up. It's simply up to the moderator to ensure  
22 the discussion progresses; and the goal of the moderator is  
23 to ensure that the candidates have near equal speaking time.  
24 So if a candidate starts monologging, you know, the  
25 moderator -- moderator will need to jump in and wrap it up.

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1 who the House candidates are and their party, and you can  
2 see who the Senate candidates are and their party. That way  
3 voters know who, again, those opponents are.  
4 And then we get to our closing statements and the  
5 moderator will make closing remarks which lasts about a  
6 minute.  
7 So that's pretty much the structure and the rules  
8 for our debates, if you will.  
9 I will say candidates have been -- we've never had  
10 an instance where we've had any aggression or negativity  
11 with candidates, you know, and decorum has also been  
12 followed, and it's always been, you know, a respectful  
13 environment. And so those are kind of some of the standard  
14 standards that we set for our debates and -- and thankfully  
15 we've never had an issue with them.  
16 So with that, that kind of goes over basically what  
17 our 2022 debate process was. As I mentioned this is  
18 background information for how we get into our next few  
19 agenda items for discussion.  
20 But with that, I'm happy to answer any questions in  
21 regards to the format that we used for the 2022 debate  
22 cycle.  
23 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you, Gina. I think that  
24 really gives us a good baseline to start talking about what  
25 kind of changes might be advisable or what kind of changes

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1 So that one to two minutes per responses to voter  
2 questions, we do allow for rebuttals and even interruptions.  
3 So the goal for 2022 was to have more of a conversation  
4 style, you know, not so formal and strict and rigid, but  
5 more we want the candidates to engage one another. We know  
6 that voters have told us directly that is important; they  
7 want to see the candidates engage directly.  
8 So it's not a forum style where: Okay Candidate A  
9 here's your question; and then we only hear Candidate A and  
10 then we move on to Candidate B; here's your question and we  
11 only hear Candidate B. So it is a conversation; there is  
12 engagement.  
13 The moderator again may limit -- or may limit  
14 responses for time-management purposes and again going with  
15 that standard of we're trying to get near equal speaking  
16 time for all candidates. So if we have a candidate who  
17 hasn't yet been heard from or there's two candidates that  
18 are dominating the discussion, that -- the moderator will  
19 then specifically call on the other candidate for their  
20 thoughts and make sure that they have the opportunity to  
21 engage with their opponent.  
22 As I mentioned in the introduction, the moderator  
23 will make effort to ensure that the audience knows who the  
24 true opponents are and we also have that visually on our  
25 slides. So when you're viewing it on YouTube, you can see

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1 people would like to see.  
2 Are there any questions from Gina at this point  
3 about clarifying how it has worked up 'til this point?  
4 MEMBER KLINE: Mr. Chairman, Chris Kline from the  
5 Arizona Broadcasters Association, if I can ask a question.  
6 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Sure, Chris.  
7 MEMBER KLINE: Gina, I'm curious how many  
8 candidates -- since it is from both parties -- participate  
9 in these debates on average. Are we talking three people,  
10 ten people, five people; or is it hard to quantify since  
11 there's so many districts?  
12 MS. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, Member Kline, that is  
13 an excellent question, and in preparing for this meeting, I  
14 did pull up our invite list from 2022; and so it really does  
15 vary based off of the district and who has qualified to run  
16 and in what party.  
17 So when we're talking about a primary, you know --  
18 so, for example, again, I'm just using LD-1 here, when I  
19 look at who we invited in the primary election, we had one,  
20 two, three, four, five, six candidates who were eligible to  
21 participate in the debate, and two who were running in LD-1,  
22 but they did not have a contested election so they were not  
23 eligible to participate.  
24 So one of the most candidates that we had in a  
25 district I think was LD-11, and we ended up having 11

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1 candidates -- 10 or 11 candidates that we invited to  
2 participate. Not everybody shows up or will RSVP yes. I  
3 would say that we have anywhere from -- you know, we had  
4 maybe a small handful of 30-minute Q&As, maybe three -- two  
5 or three; but for the most part, we have anywhere from two  
6 to seven candidates participating in a debate event.

7 MEMBER KLINE: Thank you.

8 MEMBER TORGESON: You know, I'm going to ask a  
9 question because I missed the last meeting.

10 But is there a way legally to incentivize, or in a  
11 sense almost penalize people that aren't Clean Elections  
12 candidates that don't participate? I mean, what would an  
13 incentive be, look like, to make people that aren't even  
14 Clean Elections candidates want to participate in that  
15 debate?

16 MS. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, if I may?

17 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Yes. Yes, Gina.

18 MS. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, Member Torgeson, that's  
19 a great question. And so in our last meeting, we did  
20 clarify, and I think you referenced to this, if you are a  
21 participating Clean Elections candidate, if you do not  
22 participate in your debate, there is a financial penalty,  
23 you are fined a \$500 fee for not participating; and I can't  
24 remember the last time we instituted that, that fee -- that  
25 fine because the participating candidates do participate.

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1 As far as the traditional candidates go, it has  
2 been my experience that when -- if we were to consider -- if  
3 we were to look at anything in the form of a negative  
4 consequence for not participating, what I have heard from  
5 candidates is that they simply don't want their opponent to  
6 have that time. You know, that's why they participate  
7 because they don't want the voters to simply see that  
8 candidate only and then they get, if you will, dinged  
9 whether if the press is watching and they say, oh, so-and-so  
10 didn't show up, or they don't want that candidate to have  
11 that 100 percent uninterrupted time with the voters or  
12 anybody that would challenge them.

13 That has sort of been the incentive that we have  
14 seen that pushes candidates to participate, but in regards  
15 to your question about the legalities if we have the  
16 authority to institute any type of fine over traditional  
17 candidates for not participating, you know, I would -- I  
18 would -- I don't think that's possible. I would refer that  
19 over to Tom Collins who is our Executive Director to talk  
20 about that.

21 MEMBER TORGESON: To look more so as a -- and take  
22 this out of the box for a second, all right.

23 You're running in whatever, LD-12, and two people  
24 don't -- you know, two traditional candidates aren't going  
25 to show up. Now looking at it, of course, that means that

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1 the Clean Elections candidate has uninterrupted time, right,  
2 and that's sort of a bonus, right?

3 But what if -- is there a way to maybe reward Clean  
4 Elections candidates if non-Clean Elections don't  
5 participate?

6 You see, it's almost -- it's almost a reverse of a  
7 penalty per se, but it would make it so that these people  
8 looked and went, wow, you know, so-and-so got \$500 because I  
9 didn't show up.

10 You see what I'm -- see where I'm getting?

11 MS. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, Member Torgeson, yeah,  
12 I -- I do understand your point. I -- I see what you mean  
13 by kind of like a reverse incentive.

14 I think that would be something that the group  
15 could discuss and then I think staff would have to see if  
16 that's something that we could do within our rules and our  
17 authority, but I think that's definitely something that this  
18 group could open up for discussion.

19 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Anyone else have -- have any  
20 other questions here?

21 MEMBER GENTLES: Mr. Chairman, this is Karl  
22 Gentles. One question, so are there any other  
23 qualifications other than making the ballot to participate?

24 In other words, do you use any other screening so  
25 that we get good quality debates other than candidates that

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1 really are not necessarily going anywhere? I don't know how  
2 you define that but -- just a question.

3 MS. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, Member Gentles, thank  
4 you. The qualifications -- to be eligible to participate,  
5 yes, you have to qualify for your name printed on that  
6 election's ballot. So what that eliminates is write-in  
7 candidates would not be eligible and then Independent  
8 candidates would not be eligible for primary election  
9 debates. It focuses solely on the candidate's name that  
10 will appear on the ballot that the voter sees when  
11 they're -- so when the voter sees their primary ballot and  
12 they see a name printed on there and there -- and they have  
13 a contested election, so they have to have opposition, so  
14 more -- more candidates are running than the seats that are  
15 open. Then there would ideally be a debate for that voter  
16 to see.

17 So by not having the write-ins, and that is in our  
18 rule, that would potentially -- you know, not to say that  
19 write-ins aren't -- aren't viable candidates. We've seen  
20 write-in candidates get elected before -- that is -- that is  
21 the current criteria for -- for being invited.

22 We don't look at polling. Especially for our  
23 statewide candidates. We do not take any consideration into  
24 polls that are out there either. If your name is on the  
25 ballot and you've got a contested election, you receive an

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1 invite.

2 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you.

3 MEMBER SHEORAN: Chairman - Chairman Kimble, may I

4 ask a question? This is Pinny with the League of Women

5 Voters.

6 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Yes, of course.

7 MEMBER SHEORAN: What happens -- do you have the

8 option -- do you hold any "empty chair" sort of debates

9 where maybe it is a contested election but only one

10 candidate accepts and shows up?

11 I didn't see -- maybe you mentioned it, forgive me

12 if I didn't catch it. Can you define that, please?

13 MS. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, Member Sheoran, thank

14 you for that question.

15 So our legislative debates are done virtually, so

16 we -- we do not have visual indicators that a candidate did

17 not show up aside from their name not being on the screen.

18 We do have -- we have some ability to in the

19 moderator script in the introduction for the moderator to

20 acknowledge, you know, in addition to the candidates that

21 are participating in tonight's debate, Candidate A and

22 Candidate B were also invited but declined to participate.

23 We can also have that information visually on our slide and

24 in the description on the YouTube channel.

25 For our statewide debates, no, we do not have and

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1 the voter.

2 If more than one candidate is participating, even

3 if they are not opposing one another, we still proceed with

4 a minimum of an hour.

5 MEMBER SHEORAN: Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you.

7 I see that Paul Senseman has a question.

8 MEMBER SENSEMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 Mr. Chairman, Gina, can you speak to amplification,

10 audio amplification during these processes? Do each of

11 these debates have microphones or are the -- and are they

12 controlled in any way by -- by Clean Elections and the

13 moderator?

14 And -- and then maybe you can just expound on your

15 thoughts about, or experiences with, audible cues for timing

16 or for interruptions if things were to -- were to ever get

17 out of control or run so, if those -- if those kind of

18 procedures are available to the moderator to manage the

19 debate effectively.

20 MS. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, Member Senseman, thank

21 you. Great question.

22 So we'll speak to two different types of debates

23 here. For the legislative debates, as the host of the Zoom

24 meeting, yes, we would be able to mute somebody's camera --

25 or not, I'm sorry, mute somebody's microphone if -- if we

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1 that just -- and a lot of that comes down to stage setup in

2 working with our broadcast partners. And then also we have

3 had a long-standing rule for our candidates that props are

4 not allowed. And so, you know, sometimes it can be

5 considered that that chair, an empty chair, can be

6 considered a prop for the -- for the candidate as well, too.

7 So to your answer your question directly, no, we --

8 we do not have any visual indicators such as an "empty

9 chair" debate.

10 MEMBER SHEORAN: Chairman Kimble, may I ask a quick

11 follow-up, a clarification?

12 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Of course. Of course.

13 MEMBER SHEORAN: When I meant "empty chair," I

14 didn't mean in terms of prop; it was a conceptual question.

15 So the question is, if you three con- -- three potential

16 candidates for a race and only one accepts, you still will

17 conduct that debate; and then is it really a debate or is it

18 a campaign event?

19 MS. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, thank you. Thank you,

20 Pinny.

21 At that point if one candidate, only one candidate,

22 is participating, our rules dictate it is a 30-minute Q&A

23 session. So it will be that single candidate and the

24 moderator, and the moderator would address that single

25 candidate for 30 minutes with questions that have come from

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1 needed to. So that would come down to us working with our

2 technical support to -- to be able to do that, to mute their

3 audio.

4 In regards to the moderator having to, you know,

5 help to kind of wrap things up, they -- the moderators in

6 2022 did not really have too many instances where they had

7 to do that, you know, they will kind of: Please wrap it up,

8 okay, or I'm going to give you another 30 seconds to finish

9 your thought. That's -- that's sort of how they've done it.

10 We've never real really had to, for our legislative

11 debates, cut somebody off, if you will. So most candidates

12 are pretty open to accepting those cues, those verbal cues,

13 from -- from the moderator. But if we are talking about the

14 technical ability to do so for our legislative debates, yes,

15 we would have that ability.

16 For the statewide, for the statewide that really is

17 a question that really comes down to do our broadcast

18 partners support that? So we would have to work with them

19 to see if they have the ability to do that.

20 In our 2022 U.S. Senate debate, on set we did have

21 some interns, there with visual cue markers to help guide

22 the candidates along, letting them know, okay, you know,

23 you're here at -- you're at the 30-second mark or, you know,

24 you've been speaking for a minute, to help the candidates

25 visually see and -- and help keep track of the timing of

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1 their responses.  
2 You know, that is possibly something that we could  
3 do again with broadcast partners to have that visual cue on  
4 set. As far as the technology goes, to be able to cut mics  
5 during a live broadcast, or even prerecorded, that is  
6 something that I think that our broadcast partner  
7 potentially could have the ability to do, so we would just  
8 really have to work and -- and identify all of the issues  
9 that go along with that.

10 I apologize, I hope I answered all -- all of your  
11 questions.

12 MEMBER SENSEMAN: No, you very much did; I  
13 appreciate that.

14 Mr. Chairman, just by -- if I may by way of  
15 follow-up, a suggestion Gina, the audible -- having some  
16 kind of audible sound to sort of cover over folks if they do  
17 run on, to allow more questions perhaps.

18 So just -- I know that's an additional tool and  
19 burden probably for staff to have to -- to implement and  
20 effectuate, but it does keep -- I've seen in some of these  
21 national debates where there is a little more contention  
22 and -- and other gubernatorial state's debates, some kind of  
23 audible device to control by the moderator that when you've  
24 hit your mark, there's noise. So it interrupts you. It's  
25 not -- it's not the moderator who has to make the

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1 thought that, you know, was the top thought that kept coming  
2 through. Like, there wasn't a sound consensus of what that  
3 structure should be.

4 So, again, I -- I think, you know, overall, from  
5 all of our statewide and our legislature ones, we have not  
6 really heard a lot of feedback from any of the stakeholders,  
7 whether candidate or voters on the structure. But, again,  
8 you know, when we did have the discussion about our  
9 gubernatorial event, that is where we heard from voters on  
10 what they felt that the format should be like and, as I  
11 said, there was not one particular sense of feedback that  
12 came through that -- that was, you know, a consensus or --  
13 or, you know, most voters thought this, it was, you know,  
14 about -- about even on what that format or structure should  
15 be.

16 MEMBER KLINE: Thank you. That's helpful.

17 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you.

18 Nathan Madden, you have a question?

19 MR. MADDEN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, if I may.

20 Gina, I was wondering, because I know that this  
21 Commission has had somewhat tenuous relations with the  
22 Cronkite School and Public Broadcasting Service over the  
23 gubernatorial debate issue, so what has this Commission and  
24 staff done to either repair that or look for other  
25 broadcasting partners?

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1 interruption; it's an actual device and an audible sound.

2 So just a thought as we work through the technicals  
3 of -- of how you'd like this to be set up.

4 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay, thank you.

5 Chris, Chris Kline, I see you have a question.

6 MEMBER KLINE: Yeah, if I can, Chairman.

7 Gina, as we talk about structure, are there  
8 feedback themes from either participating candidates in 2022  
9 or the public that attended the debates that would be  
10 helpful here to know?

11 MS. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, Member Kline, thank  
12 you, that's a great question.

13 Not really. As far as feedback goes, I would say  
14 we've only received positive feedback from candidates after  
15 the fact for, you know, thank you, like thank so much for  
16 hosting that; it's a great opportunity for being able to  
17 connect with my voters in my district. And then the same  
18 with voters as well, you know, I think for -- and just I  
19 think they were very grateful from the acceptability  
20 standpoint.

21 I think, you know, when we hear about format and  
22 structure, the community feedback came in when we had the  
23 discussion of our potential gubernatorial event, that's  
24 where we heard a lot of feedback and it was not -- I would  
25 not -- I would say that we didn't have one particular

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1 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Gina?

2 MS. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, and I -- I apologize  
3 here, I just want to confirm that with -- and I may ask Tom  
4 here just for the purposes of -- of the agenda and open  
5 meeting law, I just want to verify, Mr. Madden are you a  
6 member of the public? And if so, I just want to make sure  
7 that we are responding and handling your question  
8 accordingly for public comment.

9 MR. MADDEN: I am a member of the public, yes;  
10 private citizen.

11 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. Mr. Madden, I'm sorry,  
13 could you just hold that question until our call to the  
14 audience. This is -- this is right now time for members  
15 of -- of this organization to -- to ask questions.

16 MR. MADDEN: Understood, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Madden. I  
18 appreciate your cooperation.

19 Any other questions from -- from members?  
20 (No audible response.)

21 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. I think that gives us a  
22 good starting point to talk about changes. So Item V on the  
23 agenda, working session, discussion on the formats for  
24 debate -- format for debates, including possible structuring  
25 of legislative debates by party and Chamber.

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1 So this is -- we did this last time for those of  
2 you who were here; we're going to break out into two groups  
3 and discuss the format for debates: Any changes that we  
4 think should be done, should we break up legislative debates  
5 by party and Chamber, and some of the other matters that  
6 have come up during our discussion today.

7 So Gina, you want to tell us what we're going to do  
8 next?

9 MS. ROBERTS: Sure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
10 Members and also members of the public, so for this  
11 particular breakout session, just like we did in our -- our  
12 March meeting, how this will occur is on the technical side  
13 of things, we will randomly assign members to two different  
14 breakout rooms, one will be staffed by Avery and Tom from  
15 Clean Elections. I will be in the other one along with  
16 Chairman Kimble, and that's where the group will have time  
17 to discuss those particular agenda items; and both breakout  
18 sessions will be recorded.

19 So for members of the public, if you are in the  
20 Zoom meeting, you will also be randomly assigned to a  
21 breakout session unless you notify us otherwise that you  
22 wish to stay in the main room.

23 If you are viewing as a member of the public the  
24 YouTube stream, the breakout sessions will not be streamed,  
25 but they will be recorded and posted to our YouTube channel

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1 after the fact, so you will be able to -- to view those  
2 breakout sessions as well.

3 When we come back from breakout sessions, each  
4 group will report back to the entire group and that -- that  
5 portion will be live streamed.

6 Before we join -- before we proceed to do our  
7 breakout sessions, I wanted to provide some context for this  
8 first agenda item for this agenda item about the structure,  
9 including possibly probably breaking out by Chamber and  
10 party for our primary debates.

11 So this will be up for discussion for -- for the  
12 groups, and I just wanted to provide some background  
13 information on what our requirements would be, and this kind  
14 of goes along to what we just heard in the previous agenda  
15 item.

16 So we would have the ability to do this depending  
17 on what the group decides or how the group, you know,  
18 decides to make a recommendation or how you -- you work  
19 it -- work through it. Our requirements would be we would  
20 still need to have one event per evening. So we would still  
21 have to have one event per evening. Ideally, that would  
22 be -- the timing would be from 6:00 -- start at 6:00 p.m.  
23 still, it could run through, let's say, 8:30, so for the  
24 group, if you have considerations, possibly consider if we  
25 break it apart, that we do it within the time period.

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1 So, for example, again, LD-1, Tuesday evening, runs  
2 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., you know maybe the first hour is  
3 Senate and then broken apart by the party, and in the second  
4 hour is House broken out by the party.

5 And we would likely only be able to have one  
6 moderator per event as well, too. So I know there was some  
7 previous discussion about, you know, only, you know, party  
8 candidate -- or a party moderator, a partisan moderator for  
9 that particular party debate; I'm not sure that we would,  
10 just from an administrative standpoint, be able to do that.  
11 So I just wanted to throw that out there for consideration.

12 And then please keep in mind, too, that the  
13 moderator again who is steering the ship during these, you  
14 know, this event, depending on the RSVPs and when those come  
15 in, because we have a very short time period between, okay,  
16 candidate filings done, candidate challenges are done, we  
17 know who to invite, we have to wait for the RSVPs, we have a  
18 very limited turnaround time from when we know who will be  
19 participating in that debate. So the moderator will have to  
20 be the one to sort of create the programming for that event,  
21 if you will.

22 Again, assigning, you know, just these particular  
23 Senate Republican candidates to debate at this time and then  
24 we move into the House Democratic candidates at this time  
25 during that one event.

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1 So with that kind of foundation, you know, I just  
2 wanted to let you know, that while think that it is  
3 something we could do from an administrative function from  
4 Clean Elections and, again, those details were even if we  
5 should do it in the first place are certainly up to the  
6 group to discuss.

7 So I think at that point, Cathy, we're ready to go  
8 ahead and (simultaneous crosstalk) breakout session.

9 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Just one second. One second,  
10 Gina.

11 I see Lisa Simpson. Do you have a question that we  
12 need to address before we go into breakout sessions?

13 MEMBER SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Gina.

14 I just -- Gina, you're talking about limited time,  
15 Gina. Do you have a day, is it 28 days, 48 days? Do you  
16 know what that might be?

17 Just as we look how -- you know, if there's, you  
18 know, 30 districts, what does that look like?

19 MS. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, Member Simpson, so  
20 early voting starts 27 days before the election. So 27 days  
21 before the election is where we have to have those debates  
22 ideally wrapped up by; and then when we work backwards to  
23 the candidate filing period and the end of the challenge  
24 period, so which occurs March/April, we've got about -- our  
25 debates will likely kick off in -- at the very last week of

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1 April, run through May and June and the first week of July.  
2 Now, I know that seems like a lot of time, but it's  
3 really not when we consider 30 legislative districts, no  
4 weekends and no religious holidays, and -- and any other  
5 holiday such as July 4th. So it's -- it's not a lot of --  
6 of programming time, if you will.

7 The other thing I will note, too, in the past with  
8 our RSVPs and the deadline that we ask, we always -- if a  
9 candidate misses the deadline to RSVP, it's okay; we always  
10 still let them. A candidate can show up during -- in the --  
11 during the debate at five minutes after it's started and we  
12 will let them participate. We don't ever take the position  
13 of excluding an eligible candidate because at the end of the  
14 day, it's still about the voter being able to hear from that  
15 candidate directly.

16 So, you know, sometimes we do have candidates that  
17 we don't get an RSVP from and we will be calling them ten  
18 times and we finally get, you know, an hour before, Oh,  
19 yeah, sure, I'll -- I'll participate. That's fantastic,  
20 we'll take you, you know, we'd love to have you. But it  
21 just means from an administrative standpoint and managing  
22 the time flow, the moderator has to make adjustments.

23 So that's kind of the time period we work with,  
24 Lisa, and again, you know, just keeping in mind our  
25 calendaring restrictions that we have.

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1 you know, being out of town no longer works. I mean, you  
2 can be anywhere we are.

3 So it's some -- some of the old problems don't  
4 exist anymore, quite -- quite candidly. The moderator  
5 situation, you don't have somebody showing up anymore; you  
6 don't have to change tables or clean out a theatre. You've  
7 got it where you're coming on to a -- basically going on to  
8 the next screen onto -- onto the next event on the same day.

9 So some of the things that you've gone over lend  
10 itself to, okay, I can understand if you are renting a  
11 facility and you had to change -- change things over and  
12 everything else, but now we just hit a button and we're  
13 here.

14 So technol- -- technology is changing everything.  
15 Literally. And so I just -- I just want to put that -- put  
16 that out in the perspective as we talk about this, so.

17 But, yeah, I -- I would -- I don't know if you have  
18 a calendar already ready, you know. You should -- the  
19 Governor's debate should already be set, the Senate, you  
20 know, whoever is running at this time period, should -- the  
21 date should already be done before the petitions are even  
22 filed: You're going to have a debate on this day.

23 MS. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, Member Robson, when  
24 we -- we do create the schedule as early as possible and we  
25 send them as save the dates. So we do publicize them well

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1 MEMBER SIMPSON: I just did quick math on that,  
2 that really only gives -- I mean if you look at Tuesday,  
3 Wednesday, Thursday, depending on how holidays fall, you're  
4 only looking at 30 to 35 days of -- you know, and that pulls  
5 out Mondays and Fridays, right; but that's -- that's a lot  
6 to get done in that time frame.

7 MS. ROBERTS: And Mr. Chairman, Member Simpson, I  
8 will also add with that goes requests for schedule changes.  
9 Sometimes we will get a candidate who will say, I would love  
10 to join but I'm going to be out of town, can you reschedule  
11 it; and we make every effort that we can, sometimes we have  
12 to move, you know, events around to accommodate schedules.  
13 So we -- we try very hard to work with that.

14 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay.

15 MEMBER SIMPSON: Thank you, Gina.

16 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Bob, do you want to ask a  
17 question before we go into breakout?

18 MEMBER ROBSON: I do. One is, has the calendar  
19 already been established? I mean, we know there are  
20 30 districts; we know there's going to be -- going to be --  
21 you know what the holidays are going to be coming up, so the  
22 calendar should already -- it should be published already,  
23 quite candidly.

24 MS. ROBERTS: Chair --

25 MEMBER ROBSON: And the other is, with technology,  
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1 in advance; we still ultimately get candidates who -- who  
2 request schedule changes.

3 So I guess that is a consideration for this group  
4 is how much flexibility do we offer candidates when it comes  
5 to RSVPs and to rescheduling? That -- that is something up  
6 for discussion.

7 As far as creating the calendars now, we can't  
8 begin work with our vendors until we have a purchase order  
9 in place and they're -- and we get into the procurement  
10 issue. So we can internally create a schedule, but we can't  
11 finalize it until we know our vendors are -- are available  
12 or our broadcast partners and what their programming looks  
13 like.

14 So we typically try to get those purchase orders  
15 issued at the beginning of the year for that debate year,  
16 and then we work pretty quickly from there to get the  
17 scheduling done, and then send out those save the dates to  
18 the candidates and also to the public. We share it with the  
19 public as well, too, so that we try to get on everybody's  
20 calendar and hopefully we don't have to do any rescheduling.  
21 That -- that would be our goal is to not have to do any for  
22 rescheduling.

23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. I think we need to move  
25 into the working session.

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1 Gina, do you know about how much time we're going  
2 to have for this?  
3 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, if we  
4 could for the -- for the first working session, if we could  
5 go ahead and schedule that for -- let's do 30 minutes and I  
6 think that should be -- 30 minutes for each breakout session  
7 will give us enough time to make sure we wrap by noon.

8 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay.  
9 Okay.

10 MS. HERRING: Okay, we will split into our two  
11 groups.

12 \* \* \*

13 (BREAKOUT GROUP A - 10:45 A.M.)

14 MS. ROBERTS: All right. Thank you. I apologize  
15 for that technical difficulty.

16 Okay. So first -- first action item for the group  
17 is to elect a spokesperson. This person will --

18 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: We -- we did that in your  
19 absence, Gina.

20 MS. ROBERTS: You guys are amazing.

21 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Chris stepped up and agreed to do  
22 it.

23 MS. ROBERTS: Fantastic.

24 Okay, so then for this particular agenda item, this

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1 And I think you -- basically I think the benefit,  
2 and obviously the party situation, as Constantin mentioned  
3 last time, I think is a great idea of having the parties  
4 really deal in the primary side of it with their -- with  
5 their candidates. You know, I was thinking of the ups and  
6 downs on this, but I think it will be more responsible, so I  
7 liked that idea the other -- the other day.

8 But I definitely believe there is a need to  
9 distinguish the difference between the Senate and the House  
10 and the difference between the candidates and the issues.

11 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: I just want to clarify, do you  
12 think there ought to be -- let's talk just about the primary  
13 first.

14 MEMBER ROBSON: Sure.

15 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Should there be one debate for  
16 the Republicans running for the House and one debate for the  
17 Democrats running for the House, and one debate for the  
18 Republicans running for the Senate and one debate for the  
19 Democrats running for the Senate?

20 MEMBER ROBSON: Yes.

21 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: So four debates where we have one  
22 now?

23 MEMBER ROBSON: Yeah, I believe that that's a great  
24 idea because it -- 'til the -- 'til you come together for a  
25 general election, you're running in an election for your

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1 working session, we're -- our discussion for the format for  
2 debates including possible structuring of legislative  
3 debates by party and Chamber.

4 So I think at this point you have the context that  
5 we provided previously and I think you're welcome to open it  
6 up to discussion. Again, it -- it's the overall format. So  
7 you can definitely consider should we break apart our events  
8 and structure them so that we are only having debates  
9 between the partisan candidates and their opponents and by  
10 Chamber, or if there's any other format discussion items  
11 that you'd like to discuss, this is the time to do it.

12 MEMBER ROBSON: Want me to start in at this again?

13 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Whoever wants to -- wants to  
14 start, go ahead.

15 MEMBER ROBSON: Oh. If you don't mind,  
16 Mr. Chairman, I'll start I guess because --

17 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Sure, Bob.

18 MEMBER ROBSON: -- I've always been supportive of  
19 the fact that you break up the House and the Senate. Having  
20 run several times in my lifetime, I can tell you that  
21 debates would be more robust, you would have -- you would  
22 hear more from the candidates because of the -- the amount  
23 of candidates that you just basically put up -- put up on a  
24 dais and ask seven questions so then your debate is done  
25 even in an hour.

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1 party's nomination. So it's more party -- it's more party  
2 issues in many respects than overall general issues until  
3 you get there. And then when your party -- then when you're  
4 your party's nominee and you're running against the other  
5 party nominee, there -- you are obviously distinct --  
6 distinctively in the offices that you're running for whether  
7 it's the House or the Senate. It's not -- it's just not the  
8 same.

9 And you get -- you really don't get to know the  
10 candidates that well in that short period of time that they  
11 get to say one or two things, and it tends to -- the party  
12 gangs up on the other things and it just takes the time  
13 away. No matter how well it's moderated, it takes time away  
14 to get down to some of the real issues that the public would  
15 really want to know because there are distinct differences  
16 obviously between candidates, parties and other things; we  
17 know that.

18 But you got -- people don't really have enough time  
19 who are running for a distinctly separate office; Senate is  
20 different from the House and the House is different from the  
21 Senate. And otherwise you can put the Superintendent of  
22 Public Instruction in with the -- with the Governor's race,  
23 I mean if that's -- if that's the case, it's a statewide  
24 race and just consider it that way.

25 You have to -- and I think it would make it more

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1 meaningful for the candidate and more meaningful for the  
 2 debate structure overall.  
 3 I -- I don't want to take up all the time.  
 4 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. Tara, you don't need to  
 5 raise your hand, we'll be a lot less formal here in these  
 6 breakout sessions.  
 7 MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you.  
 8 I can appreciate wanting more time for the  
 9 candidates, I'm just wandering as I heard Gina talk about  
 10 the structure and the schedule how feasible that really is  
 11 to have, say, four different scheduled debates versus  
 12 breaking it up within the same evening.  
 13 And -- and then also if you're as a voter going to  
 14 four different debates or attending them versus one item I  
 15 can take out of my schedule, I would guess, but Gina would  
 16 know this better or certainly all of you would than I would,  
 17 that having one big block of time would rather be more  
 18 appealing in marketing and communications and getting people  
 19 to attend the debate. So I just wanted to raise that as an  
 20 issue for those are in the throes of doing this all the time  
 21 and ask what the reality is on that.  
 22 MEMBER QUERARD: I can't -- I can't find my button  
 23 to raise my hand. So, good -- good thing we're not -- good  
 24 thing we're not requiring it.  
 25 For a quick -- for those who weren't here last  
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1 We'll all watch the generals. Democrats tend not to watch  
 2 Republican primary debates for that -- for that very reason.  
 3 MEMBER JACKSON: I don't know how informal we are;  
 4 if I can just jump in.  
 5 But from the last time, one of my big concerns is  
 6 as a long-time Independent who needs to track all of these,  
 7 when you have one debate -- and by the way, now I'm  
 8 representing a huge number of people in this state and so  
 9 I -- again, I just want to raise the awareness, for the  
 10 large number of Independents, it's not just about  
 11 Republicans and Democrats; we're trying to decide from both  
 12 parties which race to vote in and who to vote for. I -- I  
 13 just want to make sure that's part of the thought process.  
 14 MEMBER SIMPSON: I think --  
 15 MEMBER ROBSON: Yeah, and this next go around,  
 16 you're going to have three parties. So, you know, you're  
 17 going to have to figure it out. So I mean, it's -- you  
 18 know, the time constraint is the time constraint that we  
 19 create. You know, the rules that we currently operate under  
 20 are the rules we currently operate under. You get -- you  
 21 need -- I think we need to change somewhat with the times.  
 22 Look, I went through 14 -- how many? 7 -- 7  
 23 debates over my time with Clean Elections debates and how  
 24 many that I went through on the City Council in Chandler.  
 25 I'm all for debates and getting (technical disruption) thing  
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1 time, the -- the mention we made in terms of having parties  
 2 involved really was just for primary debates, and it had to  
 3 do with the parties themselves since the primary debates are  
 4 restricted to partisan candidates, helping provide  
 5 moderators as a way to eliminating charges or accusations of  
 6 bias and to ensure the content is -- is better geared  
 7 towards that party's voters.  
 8 As far as splitting them up, if -- if the schedule  
 9 makes it to where you can't have four separate ones, at the  
 10 minimum, you need to separate Republican primaries from  
 11 Democratic primaries because the topics are so very  
 12 different and the interests of the audience are so very  
 13 different that, you know, you -- you may not have time to  
 14 separate State House from State Senate, okay, fine, if you  
 15 can't; you can't. If it's a question of, well, we don't  
 16 have time for twice as many meetings, then -- or debates,  
 17 then make them twice as long and have twice as many of them.  
 18 You still haven't denied candidates time they  
 19 wouldn't get anyway. If ten candidates have to split an  
 20 hour compared to five candidates splitting half an hour,  
 21 it's the same for the candidates; but it will -- you'll  
 22 provide content that is far more applicable and interesting  
 23 to the audience.  
 24 Republicans don't tend to watch Democrat primaries  
 25 debates for president or governor or anything like that.  
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1 out; but the point of going down the line and asking the  
 2 same question of candidates, it has to change. 'Cause we're  
 3 not getting -- we're not getting to the average we're asking  
 4 for. And if we're going to do things out of convenience --  
 5 and that's a whole nother -- that's a whole nother issue.  
 6 Then -- I said the last time, you have to make  
 7 these meaningful for me to want to show up to put myself out  
 8 there to answer the questions. Otherwise, I can just say no  
 9 like a lot of people do and you're not getting -- you're not  
 10 getting the outcome as a Clean Elections organization.  
 11 You're not getting the outcome you want. And believe it or  
 12 not, a lot of them don't do it because they say: Oh, hey,  
 13 I'm going to sit there for whatever; I'm going to answer  
 14 four questions and, you know, I've spent -- I've spent an  
 15 hour or two hours of my time just to answer four questions  
 16 or getting banged up on.  
 17 So that's why I liked in the primary dealing with  
 18 the parties. And if you're an Independent, you choose to be  
 19 an Independent, so if you have to watch two debates, then  
 20 you watch two debates. That's -- that's your choice. Or  
 21 you -- or you become a member of the party and you watch  
 22 your party debate. I mean, that's kind of how it -- how it  
 23 goes. I mean, are we shifting so far over to compensate for  
 24 that aspect of it?  
 25 I mean, I know a lot of people that are  
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1 Independents and they participate in what they participate  
 2 in.  
 3 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Tara.  
 4 MEMBER JACKSON: Is that Tara? Sorry, is that what  
 5 you said?  
 6 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Yes. Yes, I said --  
 7 MEMBER JACKSON: I'm just going to make another  
 8 issue of consideration for having a debate that has all  
 9 candidates.  
 10 I don't think there should be extra burdens placed  
 11 on Independents when they're so many of us now. And I've  
 12 been one for over 20 years -- actually 30, almost 30.  
 13 And here's the other thing, as part of the  
 14 consideration, everyone is talking about the increased  
 15 polarization and uncivil dialogue that is happening in  
 16 debates. If you have primaries where you have debates with  
 17 all candidates, then the candidates are going to be  
 18 incentivized to not go to extreme polarized statements in  
 19 order to get those few people from their party to vote for  
 20 them. They're going to be incentivized to appeal to the  
 21 broader audience that's there.  
 22 So again I don't know how challenging it would be  
 23 to change things, but this is the reality we're in. If --  
 24 if part of our goal is to reduce polarizations, get the best  
 25 candidates, incentivize them to state and run on platforms

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1 and I as Independent voters can look at all the candidates  
 2 together and decide which primary we want to vote in?  
 3 MEMBER JACKSON: My last comments were really  
 4 directed towards the voter but, really, what I'm always  
 5 thinking about is how can we create a better system for the  
 6 state for everyone.  
 7 And given what is happening -- and maybe this is  
 8 not the realm for it, but it is where we are going in the  
 9 future, should we be looking at -- and I would certainly  
 10 argue for it -- a system where Independent candidates are a  
 11 part of a primary debate? I don't think that's exactly what  
 12 we're talking about here at the moment, but the reality is  
 13 we're disenfranchising or disincentivizing as well  
 14 Independent voters, Independent candidates; and the  
 15 system -- it's very clear is currently creating more  
 16 polarization and division and not about solutions.  
 17 So, yes, those are big major changes, I get that,  
 18 but these are the changes in the works. And I think it's at  
 19 least important to have those in the back of our mind as we  
 20 look at these changes because that is -- that is where we  
 21 are now, where we're going in the future. Maybe we can't  
 22 make all those changes right now, but that's the reality of  
 23 the future where we're at.  
 24 I -- I look at it very big picture.  
 25 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: For the ease of Chris who is

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1 that serve all of Arizona then we should be looking at that.  
 2 And it's not just general debates. Let me -- let  
 3 me address that. Most of the elections are determined in  
 4 the primary debates and Independent voters are really taken  
 5 away from that and that's now the majority of Independent  
 6 voters.  
 7 So obviously I feel strongly about that for a  
 8 reason -- and it's not just because I am an Independent  
 9 voter -- but I want to make sure that's a consideration.  
 10 When I go into these discussions with people who are in  
 11 parties, Independents are not talked about and yet they're  
 12 such a huge part of -- of the process now. And, no, primary  
 13 debates are not just for partisan issues; they are for all  
 14 of us.  
 15 So I'll leave it at that.  
 16 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Well, Tara, I just want to  
 17 clarify your position. First of all let me also say I'm an  
 18 Independent and I've been an Independent for -- for a very  
 19 long time, as long as I can remember, and are you -- are you  
 20 saying that an Independent candidate running in Legislative  
 21 District 1 should be able to take part in a primary debate?  
 22 Say they're running for the House in LD-1, an Independent  
 23 should be taking part in that?  
 24 Or are you focusing more on from the voter there  
 25 should be one debate among all House candidates so that you

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1 going to be taking notes and saying what our -- what our  
 2 recommendation is, what -- what do most of you think? And  
 3 let's focus, first of all, on primaries.  
 4 Should -- should there be one primary election for  
 5 all House candidates or should those be divided?  
 6 MEMBER SIMPSON: I --  
 7 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: What's the consensus?  
 8 MEMBER SIMPSON: I can see a benefit having them  
 9 divided. The only pushback I have on that is if you're  
 10 looking at a two-hour time block, you to publicize which  
 11 debate starts and ends when because, you know, as a general  
 12 voter, I'm not going to sit there and try to watch two hours  
 13 if I only want to watch the -- the Republican debate or the  
 14 Democratic debate.  
 15 But I think in the primary, it makes sense to do by  
 16 party, and in the general to do by House and Senate,  
 17 that's -- that's my vote.  
 18 MEMBER KLINE: Here's -- here's one piece that I've  
 19 been -- I've been thinking about; I see both sides of this.  
 20 One of the things I'm struck by is what Gina shared with us  
 21 before we jumped into this call, which was what has the  
 22 feedback been from 2022 candidates and members of the  
 23 public, and unless I misunderstood, I didn't get the sense  
 24 that this has been a bubbling, large concern that has come  
 25 up from anyone that participated in 2022, and so I guess I'm

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1 just hesitant and cautious about going all in on supporting  
 2 a large change if this isn't something that has been loudly  
 3 spoken to Clean Elections over the last cycle.  
 4 MEMBER QUERARD: There's a -- there's a bit of a  
 5 polling bias too that the sample consists of people who  
 6 participated.  
 7 This is an issue to all the candidates who didn't  
 8 participate and wouldn't have been included in anecdotal  
 9 feedback on how did you enjoy your debate.  
 10 MEMBER ROBSON: Yeah, I'm trying to tell you 'cause  
 11 I've been there; Constantin's been there. You know, all of  
 12 the other stuff is you -- you know, you're -- you're part of  
 13 the process and that's fine, but I'm the guy that's had to  
 14 debate or decide not to debate or whatever, and I'm just  
 15 saying -- I'm not trying to make it -- I'm not trying to  
 16 make it difficult. I've said it over the years, you know,  
 17 you need to make some of these changes.  
 18 And that's why you don't have participation. I  
 19 mean, you're looking for participation.  
 20 And Tara, you and I are in agreement; I don't have  
 21 a problem with -- with Independents getting involved.  
 22 It's -- but that would be in the general election because  
 23 they don't have anybody there to debate unless they have  
 24 two -- I don't know if there would be two Independents  
 25 running. But, yeah, they should be part -- should

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1 kind of like we have these breakouts, the first "X" amount  
 2 of time is this race; the next amount of time is this race.  
 3 No one has to log on or off; it's a single thing.  
 4 And that might address the technical requirements,  
 5 the broadcaster's needs; it's still just a single moderator.  
 6 The Independents only tune in once, but you've packaged it  
 7 in content that voters can get what they want without having  
 8 to stick around for all the stuff they don't want.  
 9 MEMBER KLINE: I think that's interesting.  
 10 MEMBER ROBSON: I think that makes sense.  
 11 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Before we run out of time, are  
 12 there other changes that we want to talk about?  
 13 There's been some discussion about moderators.  
 14 Gina spelled out the format of debates, should we make it  
 15 less; one minute here, two minutes here; more of a  
 16 conversational thing.  
 17 Any other changes that come to mind?  
 18 MS. ROBERTS: Mr. -- Chairman and members, just a  
 19 heads up, I do anticipate a future agenda item will be  
 20 specifically devoted to moderators. So just letting you  
 21 know. You're certainly still welcome to talk about it now  
 22 because it is part of the format, I just wanted to let you  
 23 know that we will have that discussion in the future as  
 24 well.  
 25 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you.

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1 definitely be part of the process.  
 2 But, yeah, we know that Democratic primary and  
 3 Republican primary are two different things to get to the  
 4 general.  
 5 MEMBER QUERARD: I wonder, it will -- it will be an  
 6 easy question for Tara, Chris, and Gina, I'm trying to think  
 7 of how to mechanically fix this. If you had a, whatever, a  
 8 two-hour debate and everybody is -- you've got House and  
 9 Senate Republicans and Democrats are all in there and it's  
 10 one-stop shopping for all Independents, it's easy from a  
 11 mechanical standpoint because you've got one thing on the  
 12 schedule, it's a single Zoom.  
 13 Wouldn't it be fairly easy to modify that to where,  
 14 I don't know if it's two one-hour debates or four  
 15 thirty-minutes debates, whatever, but it's still a single  
 16 Zoom session.  
 17 Like, we can all be on the screen; all the  
 18 candidates can be there if you want to; it's just the only  
 19 ones who are speaking for the first half hour are the  
 20 Republicans running for the House or the candidates. In  
 21 other words, it's still a physical -- logistically it's one  
 22 single event, from a marketing standpoint you may schedule  
 23 so we know who gets what hour or what half hour, for the  
 24 Independents they're still sitting there for a single  
 25 session that lasts the exact same amount of time. It's just

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1 So any other possible changes to the format?  
 2 Kathy seems like you want to (technical  
 3 disruption).  
 4 MEMBER TULEMELLO: Hey there. I had a quick  
 5 question. There is a separate debate for House and a  
 6 separate debate for Senate, correct?  
 7 Or is it all LD-5 or LD-12?  
 8 MEMBER ROBSON: Everybody is lumped together  
 9 currently.  
 10 MEMBER TULEMELLO: I wonder --  
 11 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: So are we talking about primary  
 12 or general? And you're -- you're talking about legislature  
 13 not -- not congress?  
 14 MEMBER TULEMELLO: Correct.  
 15 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. Gina, do you want to  
 16 address that?  
 17 MS. ROBERTS: Yes. Mr. Chairman, Member Tulemello,  
 18 that is -- so currently in 2022 our current process we  
 19 have -- we lump it all together. So LD-1 House, Senate,  
 20 Republicans, and Democrats all together; that's one event,  
 21 one debate.  
 22 The discussion right now is should we break it out,  
 23 should we separate by party or by Chamber?  
 24 MEMBER TULEMELLO: Right. I -- I like the idea of  
 25 separating by Chamber and for one reason, you know, just

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1 searchability for people watching. You know, if you are  
2 trying to decide who to vote for.  
3 If you, you know, you're going to have to vote for  
4 House members and Senate members, so you know in searching  
5 for that information if you're not watching the debate live,  
6 it would be a lot cleaner, you know, I can look -- look for  
7 LD-12 Senate or LD-12 House.

8 I like the idea of separating the races. I don't  
9 know where people might come down on that, I'll defer to  
10 everybody else on whether you want to combine, you know, the  
11 parties in the same debate. I was just -- you know, as a  
12 voter, people sit at their kitchen table and try to figure  
13 out: Okay, this race, this race, this race, and, you know,  
14 they're searching; they might be able to discern a little  
15 better information about who is running in a particular race  
16 if the events were separated.

17 MEMBER ROBSON: The other is it also -- you stand  
18 out if you don't show up if there's only two people running  
19 for the Senate. So the public gets to know whether or not  
20 you're hiding from them or not, as opposed to putting 'em in  
21 at one time, you go Joe Blow couldn't make it tonight in the  
22 beginning, and then nobody knows why Joe Blow wasn't there  
23 at that point.

24 MEMBER GENTLES: Yeah, this is Karl Gentles again.  
25 I agree with Cathy; I do like breaking it out by  
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1 Republicans will watch Republicans and Democrats will watch  
2 Democrats, it is much better if we all watch together.

3 MEMBER GENTLES: Oh, I agree. I agree. That --  
4 yeah, I probably shouldn't have said it that way, but we  
5 know what the reality is. In fact, I like watching all the  
6 debates, but I'm just talking generally from that instance.

7 MEMBER TULEMELLO: Oh, sure. I -- I completely  
8 agree with you as well.

9 MEMBER JONES: I remember showing up to one  
10 Democratic debate, and it think it might have been the State  
11 Democratic Party Convention, and Marco Lopez, and forgive me  
12 for not remembering who he was running against in that cycle  
13 was debating, and I liked thinking that, you know, one of  
14 those people is going to be on the -- on the ballot; it's  
15 good to know what they're both going to say.

16 And I think every media outlet including the  
17 Arizona Republic and the YellowSheet and the Capitol Times  
18 covered the mere fact that I went into the room to watch  
19 that debate.

20 So I think we kid ourselves and we say Republicans  
21 want Democrats to come and Democrats want Republicans to  
22 come. That wasn't the point I was going to make, though,  
23 Mr. Chairman.

24 I want us to not lose sight of Mr. Robson's comment  
25 from last month -- and Gina, forgive me if this is a  
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1 Chamber. In the last seat, you know, you know have you know  
2 House and Senate all in the same debate. We don't vote that  
3 way, we vote by Chamber; and I think it would be valuable to  
4 hear from the candidates based upon, you know, their Chamber  
5 representation.

6 That -- the one thing that concerns me, Bob you can  
7 talk to this, you -- you've done multiple of these directly,  
8 is the time factor if we put on so many debates. So if we  
9 break it up, that means we're doubling the -- the debates  
10 that are aired. Now, from a production standpoint, that's  
11 pretty significant, from a viewer standpoint, you're opting  
12 in to whichever one you want so it doesn't make a  
13 difference, but it might make it easier to decide which one  
14 you are going to watch.

15 And I think that to Constantin -- is that how you  
16 pronounce your name? -- Constantin's point of some time ago,  
17 you know, Republicans watch Republicans; Democrats watch  
18 Democrats. It's just the way it goes.

19 So I think there is a lot more to think about, but  
20 I do think there is real opportunity to really narrow it  
21 down for the -- for the person watching and give them a  
22 better option of what makes -- you know, what's more  
23 interesting to them.

24 MEMBER ROBSON: I agree.

25 MEMBER TULEMELLO: Yeah, and while I agree  
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1 moderator-specific question, maybe we can mark it down to  
2 raise whenever that agenda item is appropriate. But one  
3 thing Bob mentioned last time is if you have people who are  
4 subject-matter experts who are engaging candidates, it  
5 matters a lot less whether they're Republicans and Democrats  
6 or Independents and whether you mix House and Senate. It  
7 makes the information shared much more relevant and much  
8 more interesting and much more helpful to inform decisions  
9 by voters.

10 So I just want us to keep that in mind as we think  
11 about format changes and -- and that sort of thing.

12 The -- I can't -- I think it might have been Chris  
13 Kline who said let's don't break something that's not  
14 broken. It's probable that what we're doing now isn't  
15 broken; it's just that that we need people who are more  
16 thoughtful to engage with the candidates. Not so much as  
17 referees but more as policy, subject matter, knowledgeable  
18 experts.

19 MEMBER KLINE: So in the spirit of time here  
20 because we've got two minutes remaining, can I summarize  
21 what I'm hearing and -- and get some feedback if this is  
22 missing something real quick?

23 So what -- what I -- what I'm planning to say  
24 representing us is that clearly there's a lot of varying  
25 thoughts and opinions, both in support of moving to party-  
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1 based debates and Chamber-based debates and opposition to  
2 change. On the one hand we talked about the fact that the  
3 topics of conversation are different by party and Chamber,  
4 and that we could get more robust conversations if we make  
5 them separate. We also talked about the fact that we could  
6 lose engagement from voters including Independents that want  
7 to see everybody at once.

8 But in total, while there isn't a single idea that  
9 it seems like everyone here rallies behind, one of the ideas  
10 that seem to spark a lot of engagement was the idea of  
11 supporting a primary debate that's split between parties but  
12 remains a single event and has candidates speaking based  
13 upon party and Chamber at different times.

14 MEMBER GENTLES: Sounds good.

15 MEMBER ROBSON: Sounded good.

16 MEMBER KLINE: Okay.

17 MEMBER SIMPSON: Yep.

18 MEMBER QUERARD: So that's clear that they -- they  
19 really are broken out within that time. It's not that they  
20 just speak at different times, but debates within the  
21 debate.

22 MEMBER KLINE: Debate -- I can --

23 MEMBER QUERARD: They are clearly segmented.

24 MEMBER KLINE: Okay.

25 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Very well done, Chris.

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1 Oh. It says "please ask host to give you  
2 permission to record," so. All right.  
3 Oh. It says "recording." I hope it is. All  
4 right.

5 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, Avery. This is  
6 Angela. I'm recording on my end if nothing else, if  
7 anything fails.

8 MR. XOLA: Oh, okay. I appreciate you. Thank you.  
9 Thank you, Angela.

10 All right. So the first issue would be time  
11 limits. So the time limits for each candidate to speak  
12 during the debate, should it be hard time limits or soft  
13 time limits?

14 Pros and cons, hard time limit, of course you're  
15 going to be on schedule; you're going to save time. Soft --  
16 it gives the candidate some time to kind of fill out  
17 their -- their idea or their comment, but I'm interested to  
18 hear what you all have to say.

19 MEMBER MCLEOD: I've noticed that with a strong  
20 moderator, it works to have the soft time limits. But if  
21 the moderator is not strong, you need to have that clock,  
22 'cause if you don't, then the dominant personality dominates  
23 and the viewers don't get a real accurate reflection of  
24 what's going on.

25 I've seen Brahm Resnik do it quite well, but not

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1 MEMBER KLINE: And we have 24 seconds to spare.

2 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Wow.

3 MEMBER QUERARD: All in favor of Chris doing this  
4 every time raise your hand.

5 MEMBER KLINE: No.

6 What I'm really fascinated to see is if the other  
7 group comes back with the same thing as us or if we see  
8 something totally different because I have a feeling that  
9 opinions are very varied over there, too.

10 \* \* \*

11 (BREAKOUT GROUP B - 10:45 A.M.)

12 MR. XOLA: Here we are. Good morning, everyone.  
13 Thank you, members, for your time.

14 Let's jump right in; the time moves quickly, so  
15 let's jump right in. And basically what I'll do is I'll  
16 post some topics or issues to you, and then you all can just  
17 kind of talk about it and give your opinions

18 So the first thing we're going to talk about is  
19 the -- oh. Let me -- you know what, let me -- let me hit  
20 record. I always forget to do that.

21 MR. COLLINS: I'm sorry, I was supposed to do that  
22 and I failed.

23 MR. XOLA: Oh, no. It's okay.

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1 everybody has the swagger.

2 MR. XOLA: All right. I like it. I like that  
3 word.

4 Anybody else want to chime in on that?

5 MEMBER FOWLER: Avery?

6 MR. XOLA: Yes.

7 MEMBER FOWLER: This is Renaldo.

8 MR. XOLA: Yeah.

9 MEMBER FOWLER: I think as we talk about format, my  
10 biggest -- my biggest thing is making sure during the  
11 debates that the information that's out there -- we talk  
12 about a soft debate, if you're having a great conversation  
13 that's really addressing the issue, then a soft -- a soft  
14 time would be good, right. But if you have these  
15 individuals who are just going off in right field and left  
16 field and that is not being controlled, that's my biggest  
17 particular issue.

18 My issue with these debates is -- is making sure  
19 that we have candidates that are -- are addressing the  
20 issues, whatever format if it's soft debate or hard type of  
21 time, that's my biggest concern is I would love to see  
22 candidates truly talking about issues in detail rather than  
23 cliché because I see a lot of cliché.

24 And so whatever format that we create that we're  
25 able to do that, that's what is important to me.

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1 MR. XOLA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Member  
2 Fowler. Appreciate -- anybody else before we move on to  
3 that, I think we got pretty good comments out of that.

4 MEMBER MCLEOD: I would just say, like, I've done a  
5 lot of these and one thing that can be a problem sometimes  
6 is that, like, the rules can get really complicated. Like,  
7 you have 2 minutes to answer the question, but then if you  
8 want to rebut you've got 45 seconds, and if you're going to  
9 rebut the rebuttal, you've got only 30 seconds. And so it  
10 makes it really hard for the candidate -- first of all, it's  
11 hard to begin with, like, "Explain how school funding should  
12 work in two minutes." Wow, that's complicated. But to try  
13 to learn to speak in, like, three different time blocks is  
14 really complicated.

15 So I would say if you're going to have hard limits,  
16 you know, try to make it as, like, simple as possible and  
17 not make people try to formulate their thoughts in different  
18 chunk sizes if that makes sense.

19 MR. XOLA: Yeah. It does. And I think this speaks  
20 to having a strong moderator, I -- and we, we always deal  
21 with that, and that's something that's very important to  
22 each of the debates is having a strong moderator who can  
23 kind of navigate that and know when to push back and know  
24 when to, you know, make that hard time limit to Member  
25 Fowler's point.

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1 For the next, and let's move into rebuttal --

2 MEMBER LIGGETT: Hold on. Hold on.

3 MEMBER SHEORAN: Hold on. Yeah, a couple of us  
4 have comments.

5 MEMBER LIGGETT: A couple of us have questions.

6 MR. XOLA: Okay. I don't want to -- I don't want  
7 to skip anyone. All right.

8 MEMBER LIGGETT: That's okay.

9 MR. XOLA: Member Liggett, go ahead.

10 MEMBER LIGGETT: Thanks, Avery.

11 I want to ask more experienced people or people  
12 with more time, I want to press on that moderator issue  
13 'cause I agree, right, in -- in an ideal setting, you would  
14 have a strong moderator who does that. I'm skeptical about  
15 how consistently we're able to do that with moderators. I  
16 invite pushback on that, but I think if we can't do it  
17 consistently, then we ought to lean, you know, back on some  
18 time limits.

19 I want us to be more careful with this decision  
20 'cause I hear us going, like, "Yeah, strong moderator."  
21 Only if we can deliver a strong moderator.

22 Okay. That's all I have to say.

23 Pinny.

24 MEMBER SHEORAN: Yeah, thank --

25 MR. XOLA: Okay, Member Sheoran.

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1 MEMBER SHEORAN: Thank you so much, Avery.  
2 That augmenting what Jodi had said is, I think  
3 depending on a moderator really does not speak to the issue  
4 of equity, and if we are going to be balanced and fair, then  
5 the strict timing does allow that no matter, you know -- no  
6 matter how interesting, if you will, the conversation is.  
7 If you call it a debate, then give each person the correct  
8 amount of time from an equity perspective because they all  
9 should have the same amount of exposure. That's one.

10 Second point I would like to make is Renaldo's  
11 point about cliché, you know, it behooves these candidates  
12 to come well prepared, which then puts the onus on us to be  
13 prepared with the kinds of framing the questions for the  
14 broad issues in a way that targets that particular election  
15 or race or that -- that those candidates from being able to  
16 actually effect a change.

17 The challenge with these clichés is they hide  
18 behind clichés, but then when they have to do the  
19 presentation and work at the legislature, what are they  
20 going to do?

21 So, you know, those are two responsibilities. So  
22 as Jodi said, hang on here, you know, before we say it's a  
23 good thing. We should keep a conversation and depending on  
24 a moderator, you know, we -- as the League, we've done this  
25 for years and years, and you cannot depend on the moderator

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1 if the moderator also doesn't have very strict rules and  
2 guidance, 'cause it will go downhill.

3 And so that's sort of where I -- I would add to the  
4 caution Jodi said and also the caution Renaldo said about  
5 trying to avoid clichés. So both of the responsibility are  
6 ours as the Clean Election Commission or the recommendations  
7 we make.

8 Tight timelines; don't depend on the moderator; and  
9 frame your questions so they are razor sharp in how you  
10 elicit the responses.

11 MR. XOLA: Okay, okay. Is there anyone else that  
12 wants to chime in on this?

13 I see Member Fowler, you have your hand raised.

14 MEMBER FOWLER: Yeah, I think this has to do with  
15 our conversation in our first meeting; we had a lot of  
16 discussion about should we provide the questions to the  
17 candidates prior to debate.

18 I'm going to give you a good example is, if you ask  
19 the candidate, "Do you support issues around disabilities?"  
20 They all will tell you yes, right? They all will tell you,  
21 "Oh, we support disabilities," right? But when you get into  
22 the conversation with them, "Do you support increase in  
23 special education services?" When you start asking  
24 specifically about a particular topic, that's where I --  
25 whatever format we set up, that we can get that information

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1 from them.

2 Because as I mentioned earlier: "Of course we

3 support women's rights; of course we support disabilities."

4 But how do you get that candidate to specifically address

5 issues within that?

6 And so that -- that's kind of my -- my concerns

7 with the debate is whatever format we set up, strict

8 timelines/not timelines, how do we get in the answer real

9 questions and get to the meat of what issues are.

10 MR. XOLA: Okay. Thank you, thank you.

11 MEMBER MCLEOD: I think the answer to that is just

12 follow-up questions from a strong moderator; otherwise, you

13 give people two minutes, they can just say whatever they

14 want, the clock runs out, you go to the next person.

15 MEMBER FOWLER: Mm-hm. Okay.

16 MR. XOLA: And that kind of moves us into our next

17 topic is rebuttals. So when the moderator is asking -- so

18 should the candidate be able to just interrupt and give a

19 rebuttal, or should the moderator have a "go down the line

20 and give each candidate a chance to rebuttal a pacific

21 (verbatim) argument" or should it just be between two, you

22 know, if two candidates arguing, how should rebuttals look

23 like in you-all's opinion?

24 Member Fowler, go ahead.

25 MEMBER FOWLER: Okay. So, so I guess my biggest

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1 clarification.

2 But -- yeah, but that's something to consider as

3 well, a type of fact checker.

4 Does anyone else have any comments about rebuttals,

5 the way rebuttals are ran?

6 MEMBER SENSEMAN: Avery? Avery, yeah, this is Paul

7 Senseman, I do -- I do have perhaps a thought or suggestion

8 and you can tell me it's not possible, but with the -- with

9 the sort of the conditions of our politics presently and --

10 and the fact that, though talented, the individual and solo

11 members of media are probably not trusted by one side or the

12 other, what about the consideration of having -- and I guess

13 this applies not just to rebuttals but other things as well,

14 what about having two moderators to participate in debates?

15 And -- and I guess I would associate with comments

16 here that have been made by Jodi and others, and that strong

17 moderators as well as strong rules I think result in -- in

18 strong debates, outcomes, and for voters to really get a

19 full feel of what -- of what these candidates are about.

20 So, any consideration for more than one moderator,

21 having a couple from each side of pretty obvious and

22 distinct political spectrums?

23 MR. XOLA: I see Member Jo- -- Member Liggett has a

24 question and wants to add in.

25 This is the perfect opportunity to talk about two

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1 concern is when we have these debates and you -- you go to

2 give people equal time, if someone kind of goes off the

3 rail, how do you control that? I know we keep talking about

4 a moderator.

5 Like, a person made just on absurd allegation or do

6 whatever they say, do the moderator jump in and kind of

7 fact-check that person, because we've talked about that a

8 little bit --

9 MR. XOLA: Yes.

10 MEMBER FOWLER: -- because once I think from now on

11 based on the patterns of what I see out there in terms of

12 political world, if that's a tune that they use, they throw

13 it out there. It might be a lie; it might be something, but

14 how do we check them immediately rather than let it linger?

15 That's what I would like to see in these debates is that we

16 keep people -- we talked about fact checking, how do we do

17 that in debates in this whole process, rebuttals and

18 different type of things?

19 So that -- that's kind of my question.

20 MR. XOLA: Okay. And what I will say is the -- we

21 don't have a fact check per se, but the moderators -- that

22 sort of goes back to having a moderator that's knowledgeable

23 and understands the, you know, political landscape and the

24 issues, they can push back or challenge a candidate when

25 they say something that may be incorrect or ask for

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1 moderators, having two moderators. So this is kind of,

2 while we're having this workgroup, what do you all think

3 about having two moderators? Is that something that you

4 think would benefit the voters and the candidates or...

5 MEMBER TORGESON: I think it would help both of

6 them.

7 MR. XOLA: And is that two moderators from

8 political parties or two like just...

9 MEMBER TORGESON: Yeah, I mean -- and I'm not sure

10 if I'm being heard. Am I being heard by everybody?

11 MR. XOLA: Yeah, we can all hear you.

12 MEMBER TORGESON: 'Kay. Yes because, I mean, let's

13 face it, you can skew something either way if you want, and

14 there's things that people say are fake news and they're not

15 fake news, it's biased and you find out later it's biased

16 and they're saying it's not.

17 Having at least two people, yeah, that would

18 balance that out, but at the same time, has there ever been

19 an issue in the past that needs this addressing?

20 MR. XOLA: Tom, do you want to speak to that?

21 MEMBER LIGGETT: I'll -- I'll jump in here. Sorry,

22 I was muted.

23 I honestly don't know how I feel. I'm of two minds

24 about two moderators. I'm worried that we are giving into

25 division and the idea that there's none of us in the middle

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1 or there's nobody can ever be objective, so I'm struggling  
2 with that. I hear what you're saying, Paul, and I see how  
3 what you're suggesting, you know, two moderators addresses  
4 a -- or might address a problem; but I'm worried about just  
5 what that says in terms of a larger narrative as we all try  
6 and move forward together in Arizona, however the future is  
7 going to look. So that's one thing.

8 And then what I was going to say earlier is, you  
9 know, let's put some of this back on the candidates. You  
10 know, a rebuttal can function as a fact check. I think  
11 maybe it's the candidate's responsibility, you know, to  
12 monitor what each other are saying and correct it if they  
13 think it's wrong. So if we allow time for that, you know,  
14 maybe that's less of the moderator's responsibility other  
15 than civility.

16 So with that, those things being said, I'll be  
17 quiet now.

18 MR. COLLINS: Avery, did you still want me to...

19 MR. XOLA: Oh, yeah. Sure, if you'd like to.

20 MR. COLLINS: Just for context, we have had a time  
21 objection over political view. Reality is that the way that  
22 political rumors are now incentivized and obligated by  
23 publications to have individual (technical disruption)  
24 reporting is sort of a nowhere gone by the wayside, so it's  
25 a little bit harder to (technical disruption), and that's

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1 just the reality.

2 (Technical disruption) done studies that show an  
3 absolute (technical disruption) of where culture (technical  
4 disruption). So that's just a (technical disruption)  
5 unfortunately.

6 They mitigate that in (technical disruption), and  
7 to Jodi's point about rebuttal, yeah, hereto or prior to the  
8 last election cycle, Commission's -- if we had a point of  
9 view -- was that it was the candidate's obligation  
10 (technical disruption). Beginning with the post-2020, folks  
11 started to tell us it's our job to do the rebuttal, we were  
12 at (technical disruption) to -- to coin a phrase  
13 "platforming views that were not appropriately prepared."

14 We had previously -- and this is part of the  
15 discussion (technical disruption) and that it would be the  
16 candidate's job as to rebut (technical disruption), and the  
17 statement that they thought ought not (technical disruption)  
18 fair or was incorrect, whatever that is.

19 That's something that's part of this process we're  
20 wrestling with really, the core of it is -- and I apologize  
21 for going on so long, it's just how I (technical  
22 disruption).

23 You know, it is whose obligation is that to put it  
24 in your (technical disruption) train of thought and that's a  
25 real -- real -- hopefully we'll (technical disruption).

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1 MR. XOLA: All right. Thank you, Tom, for that, to  
2 clarify that.

3 We can go to -- let's go to talk about -- so we can  
4 have a true debate style or what do you guys think about  
5 for- -- versus a forum style? So there's, you know, the  
6 true debate is more stringent; it has more rules in place,  
7 you know, there's time limits. Where a forum style is kind  
8 of more of a discussion where there is some, you know, the  
9 other candidates can challenge each other.

10 What do you think about -- about those two formats?

11 MEMBER MCLEOD: Well, I think if our goal is to,  
12 you know, have entertaining, informative debates getting  
13 more interaction between the candidates is -- is good.

14 And I guess I would just say that I've watched a  
15 few of these -- not a ton -- and I have seen more than one  
16 moderator, but they don't seem to be like a left moderator  
17 and a right moderator, they're like two different  
18 journalists who have their own perspectives and I think  
19 that's -- and sometimes they fact-check stuff 'cause they,  
20 they know what's up because they're covering the races,  
21 which I think it's really appropriate and -- and great.

22 I think we should try to make candidates kind of  
23 respond to each other and -- and, you know, the moderator  
24 should try to get people talking to each other.

25 MR. XOLA: And just to -- to add to that question

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1 about informative or, you know, regular-style, true debates  
2 what about the voter, what do you think the voter would like  
3 to see? Do you think the voter would be more interested in  
4 seeing a true debate with those time limits in place, or do  
5 you think just having kind of a forum-style informal debate  
6 is better for viewership?

7 Or how do you balance that? How do you, you  
8 know...

9 MEMBER FOWLER: Avery, I have a question for you.

10 MR. XOLA: Yes.

11 MEMBER FOWLER: So for those who -- who experience  
12 and participate in these debates, which of these formats  
13 have -- we have any data on which of these formats give us  
14 the results that we want in terms of a debate? You talk  
15 about the two different approaches.

16 I guess my -- again, as my thing is whatever  
17 process that we can get these politicians to -- to answer  
18 questions to address those particular issues; and also to  
19 make sure we have a process where we can, either the  
20 candidate or the moderator, checks in terms of facts check  
21 that -- that facts checks the process.

22 And so I -- I guess -- Rodd, you said you've been  
23 on debates or you've stayed (phonetic) some of these  
24 debates?

25 MEMBER MCLEOD: I've watched some --

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1 MEMBER FOWLER: Okay.

2 MEMBER MCLEOD: -- with candidates that I was

3 interested in.

4 MEMBER FOWLER: Okay.

5 MEMBER MCLEOD: I've never participated myself.

6 MEMBER FOWLER: Okay.

7 MEMBER MCLEOD: I wouldn't subject the electorate

8 to that.

9 MEMBER FOWLER: Okay. I -- you know, like I

10 said -- Jodi, do you have any questions about that?

11 I'm just real curious. My thing is, how at the end

12 of the day, how do we get candidates, how do we control the

13 environment with -- with the moderator, either the candidate

14 fact-checks him or the moderator or we have two different

15 individuals there asking questions and maybe the second

16 person is maybe a fact -- fact-check type of a -- more of a

17 fact-check type of person, follow-up type of person because

18 that -- that's my -- my concern.

19 So I think having two people, the second person

20 either more of a fact-check type of person and the first

21 person asks the questions and -- and I guess the second

22 person more the "sergeant at arms" type of person where they

23 are just -- when a person says something crazy, that person

24 will step in immediate and say "wait," you know.

25 I -- that's just some ideas. I'm just trying to be

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1 MEMBER TORGESON: I just didn't know if that was

2 your connection or mine.

3 MR. COLLINS: It's -- it's my voice.

4 MEMBER TORGESON: Okay. Sorry.

5 Here, let me just interject this thought for a

6 moment. I mean has -- there's going to be questions here:

7 One, have we had this problem in the past; two, fact

8 checking is still going to be dependent upon what somebody

9 interprets the fact to be. And as you just said, that lends

10 itself to "after the fact."

11 The -- the fact that they've got the questions in

12 advance almost doesn't really make it a debate; it just

13 makes it for three minutes of pontificating on a subject.

14 So I'm going back to the original premise of what -- what

15 kind of debate is that? If they've got -- if they've got

16 the questions in advance, I mean, is it just the forum of

17 some sort?

18 MR. XOLA: Good point. That's a good point.

19 I see Member Sheoran, go ahead.

20 MEMBER SHEORAN: Thank you, Avery.

21 In the League we have debated this question of

22 forum versus debate for over two decades and, you know, we

23 have not -- you know, the Presidential Commission was -- the

24 Elections Commission was mentioned, I think Tom you did, but

25 they have been not conducting the debates for a long time.

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1 creative.

2 Go ahead.

3 MR. XOLA: Tom, you have something. Go ahead, Tom.

4 You're on mute, though, yeah.

5 MR. COLLINS: For the purpose of answering that

6 question Renaldo just asked, one way that the, you know,

7 Presidential Commission type the (technical disruption) this

8 year -- or next year, they do the fact-checking post hoc,

9 right. So, so -- and part of that stems from, you know,

10 it's all of 2012, because most of us on this call are of

11 enough of an age that, remember 2012, that, you know, Candy

12 Crowley sort of stepped into the middle of the debate

13 (technical disruption), and that itself had an effect on

14 that whole process. It's certainly among Republicans I

15 think, and Paul or Jim or (technical disruption) who is an

16 actual (technical disruption) that was a moment in time that

17 really thought that moderator overstepped.

18 But watch CNN or any other station after one of

19 usually (technical disruption).

20 So Renaldo, my point being talking about how we are

21 going to do this, maybe what do you think about the idea if

22 we had some (technical disruption) show (technical

23 disruption).

24 MEMBER TORGESON: I'm missing every third word.

25 MR. COLLINS: Well, my voice is shot.

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1 And as I recall, there was staff available for some fact

2 checking that they were able to redirect as part of the

3 redirect questions.

4 So it might be worth considering that as you -- as

5 we -- as the group makes recommendations.

6 I mean, I want to go back to an earlier statement,

7 I think Rodd we made this about we want it to be

8 entertaining and informative. Well, if our purpose is to

9 educate -- I mean, this -- this is a long, philosophical

10 conversation which we don't need to have today, but it --

11 it's my observation that this last election cycle the

12 debates lent more to entertainment and rating and therefore,

13 I think, caused some harm to the perceptions of how balanced

14 they were and we need to avoid that.

15 So maybe if we take entertainment off the table,

16 make it informative, you know, that might be something for

17 us to guide us as we move forward.

18 The second point I want to make is these are people

19 who have to debate on the floor under the job they hold, and

20 if they cannot debate and come prepared to the floor -- as

21 we have seen elected folks not reading and, you know, not

22 checking what bill they're voting on or whatever -- I think

23 that's a tell right there for the public and for everybody.

24 So giving them the questions in advance, I don't see an

25 issue with that because they get the bills in advance; they

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1 have to do the research. They have to be -- we're -- we're  
2 looking not just for their representation but their ability  
3 to be mindful, thoughtful, and reflect the needs of their  
4 constituents and their communities.

5 So, you know, our -- our preference has always been  
6 to give the questions in advance, make sure the questions  
7 were tight and razor sharp and focused on what the community  
8 cares about, the voters care about; and then more  
9 importantly that the moderator had help with fact checking  
10 to have rebuttal questions. 'Cause, you know, rebuttal  
11 between the candidates, but there can be follow-up questions  
12 by the moderator, too, which puts -- sheds a light on  
13 alternate facts if you will.

14 That -- that's sort of something for us to be  
15 thinking about.

16 MR. XOLA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you.

17 And Member Senseman, I see you have your hand up.

18 MEMBER SENSEMAN: Avery, thank you.

19 I, just a lot of great quest- -- comments here by  
20 the -- by the committee. I'm -- it's really impressive,  
21 thanks for assembling this.

22 I would -- I don't think I disagree with many --  
23 with any of them, really. But I did want to make a quick  
24 point, that I think the first and foremost goal here is to  
25 get this to -- is to drive attendance; we want

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1 participation. And that was at the highest level that was  
2 not -- we didn't witness that in the last cycle, that was  
3 a -- that was a challenge.

4 And so if we focus -- if we focus our efforts on  
5 format and -- and moderators, that then -- that then will  
6 drive that participation period, I think you're going to  
7 find -- I think we may find that some of these other  
8 concerns will -- will work out a little bit, a little bit  
9 better overall, maybe not be quite so -- quite so difficult  
10 or challenging.

11 So just that -- just that thought that kind of the  
12 foundation is we really need -- we need them all to show up  
13 or there's -- there's no -- there is debate for 'em or  
14 anything else.

15 MR. XOLA: That is true.

16 MEMBER SENSEMAN: And that -- and that's built by  
17 confidence in the system, understanding rules, knowing that,  
18 you know, if it's journalists that are there it's just -- I  
19 mean, the journalists are generally viewed as one-sided  
20 politically now. The pure research and others sort of back  
21 that up as well, it's decidedly one party. So having --  
22 picking moderators I think might help drive that balance,  
23 get a diverse, you know, array of question that -- that are  
24 interested issues for more than, you know, one side of  
25 voters.

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1 And then I -- I must agree with Jodi, my concerns  
2 are similar that we want to -- we do want to think about and  
3 drive questions as a Commission -- I think that are going to  
4 attract and -- and push folks to more thoughtful agreement  
5 points and unification points. So -- so I think you want to  
6 do that in terms of the solution sets and the discussion  
7 overall on policy.

8 But -- but we -- we just have to drive more -- more  
9 trust and faith in the system to get it to -- to get it to  
10 wherever want it to be, so participation.

11 Thanks, Avery.

12 MR. XOLA: Yeah, thank you for your comment.

13 Member Fowler, you can take us out of here, we've  
14 got 50 seconds.

15 Do you have a comment?

16 MEMBER FOWLER: Yeah, so -- so I think -- you know,  
17 I think we should provide them the questions, if not the  
18 questions, the topics that you'd like for them to cover  
19 because I think it's important for them to come prepared.  
20 Like they mentioned earlier about funding education, "Yeah,  
21 I support it," but the details of those questions to them  
22 will force them to really answer some of the questions.

23 So that's really kind of my -- my main thing is  
24 getting them to answer the questions and not just a  
25 performance.

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1 MR. XOLA: Great, that's the cognitive friction  
2 that we all need when we're watching a debate.

3 We're almost out of here. Thank you, everybody.  
4 This is super fruitful debate -- or workgroup breakout  
5 session. Thank you.

6 \* \* \*

9 (GENERAL SESSION - 11:15 a.m.)

10 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: So I think -- is everyone back  
11 together now?

12 There's a lot of people here; I hadn't counted  
13 but...

14 Okay. Why don't we start with -- with Group A  
15 which I think, Gina that was the group you and I were in,  
16 wasn't it?

17 (No audible response.)

18 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: So Chris Kline was our spokesman.  
19 Chris, you want to report on what we decided?

20 MEMBER KLINE: Yeah. So we had a lot of varying  
21 thoughts and opinions, both in support of moving to  
22 party-based debates or Chamber-based debates, as well as  
23 opposition to any change whatsoever and we spent a lot of  
24 time fleshing out both sides.

25 We talked about the fact that on the one hand, the

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1 topics of conversation are different by party; they're  
 2 different by Chamber. And that we could get more robust  
 3 conversations if we made them separate, but we also talked  
 4 about how that could create fragmentation. That we might  
 5 lose engagement from voters, especially Independents that  
 6 wanted to see everyone all together, as well as  
 7 conversations about what that looked like logistically.  
 8 So in total we couldn't really get everyone to  
 9 rally behind a single idea, however, we got the most support  
 10 around supporting a primary debate that is split between  
 11 parties but that remains a single event and has, in essence,  
 12 debates within the debate so that candidates could speak  
 13 based upon party or Chamber, but those that wanted to  
 14 continue to see everyone could continue to participate and  
 15 watch the entire event over the course of that hour or  
 16 two-hour event.  
 17 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. Thank you, Chris.  
 18 What about the spokesman for Group B, who is that?  
 19 MR. XOLA: Mr. Chairman, I -- we are Group B. Who  
 20 was our spokesperson? Who would like to speak?  
 21 (No audible response.)  
 22 MR. XOLA: I think Member Fowler or Member  
 23 Senseman, Member Sheoran, Member Liggett, any -- anyone,  
 24 please.  
 25 MEMBER SHEORAN: I'm happy to speak on our behalf  
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1 voters are making informed decisions.  
 2 I think I captured all of it. Avery, did I?  
 3 MR. XOLA: Yes. You did a fantastic job.  
 4 MEMBER SHEORAN: Okay. Thank you.  
 5 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. Thank you very much. Some  
 6 crossover but some -- each of the groups focused on somewhat  
 7 different topics.  
 8 And we're going to do this again on the rules for  
 9 debate events. Gina, you want to talk about what we're  
 10 going to discuss in our next breakout sessions?  
 11 MS. ROBERTS: Mr. Chairman, members, yes. So  
 12 just -- just to confirm, we are on the agenda item -- is  
 13 that VI for discussion?  
 14 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: VI, VI.  
 15 MS. ROBERTS: Yep, okay. Working session,  
 16 discussion on the rules for debate events.  
 17 So we will break out into our groups again. This  
 18 will be randomly assigned, and here's where we will have  
 19 discussion about when the event is occurring, what rules  
 20 will be followed by the candidates, the moderator. To that  
 21 extent, Avery and I do have some questions to help each  
 22 group get started to help facilitate the discussion, but  
 23 this would be the time to discuss things such as time  
 24 limits, you know, things like that, hard stops.  
 25 So Cathy, if you want to go ahead and separate us  
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1 if you choose, if you wish.  
 2 MR. XOLA: Yes, thank you. Thank you, Member  
 3 Sheoran.  
 4 MEMBER SHEORAN: So our -- our top level topics  
 5 were on the time allocated for the candidate, should it be  
 6 hard or soft. That was our top level discussion. It seemed  
 7 that the majority was in the opinion that it ought to be a  
 8 hard stop.  
 9 Second was not having an overall -- overreach into  
 10 the number of moderators or selection of moderators  
 11 influencing where there should be a hard stop, you know the  
 12 amount of time allocated to the debates.  
 13 The third was the notion of should the debate --  
 14 should the candidates get the questions in advance, and we  
 15 did not come to a consensus on that I believe. If I'm  
 16 wrong, Rodd, Jodi, anyone else please correct me. We seem  
 17 to be equally split in terms of we should send it ahead or  
 18 we shouldn't.  
 19 The other area for somewhat lengthy discussion was,  
 20 is it a debate or a forum. The whole area of timing, equity  
 21 of making sure candidates have time, and also managing the  
 22 questions and thinking about the questions so that the  
 23 opportunity for the candidates doesn't become one of  
 24 pontification and posturing but really answering in a  
 25 thoughtful manner the questions that voters care about so  
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1 into our breakout sessions. And, again, that will be Avery  
 2 facilitating one and I'll be in the other with -- with  
 3 Chairman Kimble and both will be recorded and available on  
 4 our YouTube channel after the fact.  
 5 \* \* \*  
 6  
 7  
 8 (BREAKOUT SESSION GROUP A - 11:21 a.m.)  
 9 MS. ROBERTS: All right. Okay. So first -- first  
 10 action item is to select a spokesperson.  
 11 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Anyone want to be volunteered to  
 12 do this?  
 13 MEMBER SENSEMAN: I'd like to nominate Karl Gentles  
 14 to be my spokesman.  
 15 MEMBER GENTLES: You know what, I swear I knew you  
 16 were going to say that.  
 17 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Are you willing, Karl?  
 18 MEMBER GENTLES: Sure.  
 19 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay.  
 20 MEMBER GENTLES: Whatever -- whatever Paul Senseman  
 21 says, I'll do.  
 22 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. That -- that's a good  
 23 start.  
 24 Okay.  
 25 MS. ROBERTS: All right.  
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1 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: What part of the -- go ahead,  
 2 Gina.  
 3 MS. ROBERTS: Sure. So we have some -- some  
 4 questions for you all to consider. Again, it's whatever you  
 5 wish to discuss that has to do with the rules, the overall  
 6 rules for how the debates are -- are conducted.  
 7 I will start by saying that some of the standards  
 8 that we have for all of our debates are, you know, the  
 9 obvious ones: Proper decorum, respect, no attacks on  
 10 candidates, near equal speaking time for all candidates  
 11 as -- as much as we can manage, and a neutral moderator.  
 12 And what we'll do here is -- I will drop into the  
 13 chat just some bullet points that we have that you can, you  
 14 know, if anything stands out to you that you want to  
 15 discuss, these will be here for your consideration.  
 16 But, again, we can -- time limits, should we have  
 17 those, should they be hard or soft whereas, you know, the  
 18 moderator will kind of even encourage you to wrap up your  
 19 thought, okay, you get 15 more seconds; or is it just a hard  
 20 stop; should we cut mics; should we have that true debate  
 21 style or more of a forum; you know, should we allow opening  
 22 and closing statements even, and -- and the time lengths  
 23 that we allocate for that.  
 24 So there's a -- a few things there in the chat to  
 25 get you started.

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1 subject-matter expert and they get a question in about  
 2 water, can the, you know, moderator provide a little bit  
 3 more background and context on it to further allow for the  
 4 candidate to -- to respond; or -- and do we allow going back  
 5 to the interruptions and the back-and-forth, must speakers  
 6 be acknowledged by the moderator before speaking? Do we  
 7 make it a little bit more formal?  
 8 So those are just some of the bullet points that we  
 9 have to help facilitate this discussion. Again, whatever  
 10 you all feel is important and relevant to what you think the  
 11 rules of engagement for the candidate should be and how the  
 12 moderator should flow the debate, control the debate, those  
 13 are all for -- for you to discuss.  
 14 Thank you.  
 15 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: And I just wanted to mention one  
 16 thing that Gina mentioned in our last session, we're going  
 17 to have a -- a discussion solely on moderators, so we won't  
 18 want to get too much into that.  
 19 I assume, Gina, that discussion will be focused on  
 20 how we can choose them, who the moderators ought to be, not  
 21 so much their role during the debate?  
 22 Am I right, Gina?  
 23 MS. ROBERTS: That is correct.  
 24 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay.  
 25 MS. ROBERTS: Well, what do we all think about time

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1 Oh. I'm sorry, Jim -- or Member Torgeson, I know  
 2 you are on the phone, so I'll just read through these.  
 3 Time limits, hard or soft; rebuttals, should we  
 4 allow rebuttals for all candidates, and if we do rebuttals,  
 5 is it just whoever wants to speak up or do we have to go  
 6 down the line; do we mute mics; again, forum style or true  
 7 debate, you know, back-and-forth; are interruptions allowed,  
 8 if so must they be "to the point," "to that point," just as  
 9 our legislature; what do we do if a candidate doesn't answer  
 10 the question, if they get asked a very specific question and  
 11 their response is something entirely different; must the  
 12 candidate stick to that topic to their question; do we,  
 13 again, allow opening and closing statements; should we  
 14 change up the speaking order ahead of time; do we identify  
 15 the topics to be discussed and allocate specific time  
 16 sections for those topics.  
 17 So if, you know, the candidates and the  
 18 stakeholders said, Okay, we want to talk about education,  
 19 health -- healthcare and water, does that mean that, you  
 20 know, we schedule 15 minutes for each topic or -- and  
 21 then -- so, again, the standard as we said that the  
 22 moderators are neutral, but may the moderators, while not  
 23 engaging and debating the candidate, is the moderator  
 24 per- -- permitted to provide context on a question?  
 25 So, for example, if, you know, the moderator is

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1 limits, let's start -- let's start there. Does anybody have  
 2 a -- so whether we're talking about legislative or  
 3 statewide, you know both can be -- obviously are different  
 4 circumstances and -- and formats, but how do you all feel  
 5 about time limits? Should we be monitoring those very  
 6 strictly; should we have a hard time limit?  
 7 MEMBER TORGESON: I would actually say be soft on  
 8 it but fair and if somebody deserves to have because  
 9 somebody ran over 20 seconds should the -- his opponent be  
 10 allowed to respond with an extra 20 seconds per se.  
 11 MEMBER QUERARD: You have a time limit, I mean, you  
 12 have to have some structure and some basic guidance and  
 13 rules. If you've told the candidates we're not going to be  
 14 militant about it but, you know, two minutes means two  
 15 minutes it might be a minute 45 or 2.15, but two minutes  
 16 doesn't mean three minutes.  
 17 At the same time, if we are always over, we are  
 18 tracking your overall time, we're going to let candidates  
 19 even this up so, be prepared to get -- I mean, if you keep  
 20 giving me 2.15 instead of 2, for your last question you  
 21 might be down to 30 seconds 'cause you used up all your  
 22 extras because we're going to be fair and make sure  
 23 everybody has a fair chance.  
 24 If you clear -- if you're clear in advance, that's  
 25 perfectly fine.

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1 MEMBER TORGESON: I agree with CQ.  
 2 MS. ROBERTS: How do you feel about --  
 3 MEMBER TORGESON: Am I still part of the session;  
 4 is anybody there?  
 5 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, we still hear you.  
 6 MEMBER TORGESON: Okay. No, it just went dead  
 7 quiet.  
 8 MS. ROBERTS: How do you all feel about  
 9 interruptions? So if a candidate is responding to a  
 10 question, moderator asks them a question that came in from a  
 11 voter, candidate is responding and, you know, they're about  
 12 a minute into their response and their opponent jumps in and  
 13 interrupts them, should the moderator allow that  
 14 interruption and then circle back to the candidate that has  
 15 interrupted or say, Okay, hold off; I'll come to you when so  
 16 and so has finished their thought?  
 17 What do we think about interruptions and allowing  
 18 for that kind of interaction between the candidates?  
 19 MEMBER QUERARD: The latter is probably better just  
 20 so it doesn't turn into a total food fight. You don't want  
 21 to be so militant. I mean, to a certain degree, how a  
 22 candidate conducts themselves in a -- in a debate tells the  
 23 voters an awful lot about them, not just what they say but  
 24 how they say it and how they behave, so. You know, you  
 25 interrupt sort of aggressively, it's fine for the moderator

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1 things. You're never going to get down to the second but  
 2 they -- but they do -- they do help folks comply, and I  
 3 think they create some conditions for candidates and -- and  
 4 for the people that are advising them to -- to have  
 5 confidence that this is -- this is roughly how it's going to  
 6 work out, and how your expectations can be then met at the  
 7 end of the -- at the end of the event. And then that will  
 8 build more participation, which ultimately is what we're  
 9 looking for for voters to get the maximum exposure to  
 10 candidates that they can.  
 11 MEMBER TORGESON: Well, at the risk of sounding  
 12 like I didn't get it, I think the point was if a candidate  
 13 is interrupting the other candidate, that the moderator --  
 14 which one of the, I would say a synonym of moderator is  
 15 referee, would step in and say, "Hey, we will hear you after  
 16 they finish talking. Not allowing it to start to spin out  
 17 of control because when it spins out of control, you lose  
 18 confidence in the system.  
 19 So I think CQ is dead on point.  
 20 MEMBER QUERARD: I think it's also okay if the  
 21 moderator uses the mute button. Now, we could --  
 22 MEMBER TORGESON: Yeah.  
 23 MEMBER QUERARD: -- and I don't know, maybe  
 24 everybody is muted. And then I ask -- because if we would  
 25 stop -- so if we want to do Paul's idea where we kind of

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1 to say "It's still his time, but let me come to you and get  
 2 that just as soon as we're done here," and then get back.  
 3 If the candidates know they're going to have a  
 4 chance to make their point, you know, they don't have to  
 5 force their way into the conversation.  
 6 MEMBER TORGESON: Agreed.  
 7 MEMBER SENSEMAN: Gina, this is Paul Senseman. I'm  
 8 going to find myself in a rare moment of perhaps slightly  
 9 disagreeing with -- with Mr. Querard there.  
 10 I think for -- I think we want to build confidence  
 11 in what we're going to get at a forum and that that will  
 12 help. If we -- if we confidence build, it will help drive  
 13 more consistent turnout of the candidates, that are  
 14 participation of the candidates; and so having rules that  
 15 are -- that are complied with I think are important.  
 16 I will also say, though, that that shouldn't be  
 17 just left to the moderator or moderators, then you start  
 18 getting into a position where the -- those individuals, be  
 19 they journalists or some other professional that are  
 20 hosting, end up interjecting themselves far greater than  
 21 they should be involved. And so you have -- if you have  
 22 rules, then you need devices to -- to enforce them, not  
 23 having the moderator themselves having to perform that  
 24 function. It's just -- it just doesn't work as well.  
 25 But sound devices, audible sounds, those sort of

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1 prevent interruptions, again show them how to use the "raise  
 2 your hand" button that I can't find, you know, where if  
 3 you're muted and I ask you a question and I unmute you; and  
 4 then around that two-minute mark, I'm going to say, Hey,  
 5 we're -- we're about out of time here, we, you know, need to  
 6 wrap it up," somebody who wants to cut in who has raised  
 7 their hand I can go to that person and unmute. But if  
 8 you're muted, doing all this stuff on the screen but like  
 9 nobody can hear what you're saying.  
 10 Or is it better to kind of leave them unmuted  
 11 and -- and let the moderator, you know, referee -- referee  
 12 the fight?  
 13 I don't know, Paul, would it be better if we  
 14 just -- when it's your turn, we unmute you?  
 15 MEMBER SENSEMAN: That -- that's -- I think that  
 16 drives more consistency and more confidence so that  
 17 there's -- the expectations are met by candidates across the  
 18 board. They know what's coming and it's not quite -- we  
 19 don't get these -- these concerns in debates about whether  
 20 or not somebody was treated fairly or not by a -- by a  
 21 human. We -- it's -- it's just -- it's more -- it's more  
 22 driven by structure. The more structure you have, the  
 23 more -- I think the more confidence that you get, the  
 24 turnout is driven then significantly.  
 25 MEMBER QUERARD: It can get boring, but it would be

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1 predictable and stable and you eliminate concerns over  
2 moderator bias to a certain degree because your time was  
3 your time and, you know, he didn't let it get out of control  
4 kind of a thing.

5 MEMBER SENSEMAN: Yeah, and I'm envisioning a  
6 couple of moderators and not one. So you have folks that,  
7 you know, equal spectrum, political spectrum represented,  
8 too, Constantin.

9 So, yeah, I think we just -- we're -- we're setting  
10 up folks that are -- that are not objective or independent  
11 to be -- to be stuck in the middle of a food fight and I  
12 just -- I feel badly for them. Nobody can do that; it's  
13 really impossibly difficult to be a referee in these kind of  
14 situations. And so I -- I think if you have a little more  
15 structure, you set them -- you set these up for success.

16 MEMBER QUERARD: The other thing I would add, and  
17 then I'll stop talking here. The Clean Elections debates  
18 are good, but it's just one debate. If you're running for a  
19 primary debate for something, you're probably going to be in  
20 a half a dozen of these things, most of which are live  
21 action sitting in the same room where it is kind of more the  
22 food fight. So if you guys want to be a little more  
23 restrictive with yours, that's fine. I mean, you -- in  
24 essence, you will be providing some variety in the schedule  
25 because most debates are everybody in the same room; they're

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1 not online. There is interruption, and you kind of get --  
2 get all that flare.

3 So if you guys want one that -- that's very  
4 structured where literally everybody is on mute until it's  
5 your turn to speak, that's fine. You're not setting a  
6 standard for all debates, that's just how the Clean  
7 Elections debate will be. And if you're different because  
8 you're extra civilized and it's never a food fight, that --  
9 that may not be a bad thing.

10 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: What about the -- the questions  
11 themselves? Should the candidates -- how much should  
12 candidates be told in advance? Should they say -- should  
13 the candidates be told we're going to spend 10 minutes on  
14 education, 10 minutes on water, et cetera?

15 Or they should say -- should the candidates be told  
16 these are the questions that are going to be asked?

17 Is there -- is there any benefit to doing it one  
18 way or the other?

19 MEMBER QUERARD: There's -- there's benefits to  
20 each. If the point of the interview is to kind of make it  
21 as informative as possible for the viewer and you give the  
22 candidates all the questions in advance, they have time to  
23 come up with the best possible answers, to really practice,  
24 to write it all out and to give you as a viewer, like, their  
25 best possible answer. If you're looking to actually measure

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1 the mental capacity of your candidates which is also a good  
2 idea, and you just don't want whatever answers were written  
3 for them, not knowing the questions in advance -- even if  
4 you may know the topics, but if you don't know the exact  
5 question, will give us an idea of the -- the intellectual  
6 capability of the candidate because if they give you just  
7 the only answer that they wrote down, even if it doesn't  
8 really fit the question, you know you're dealing with  
9 somebody who doesn't really know what they're talking about.

10 So you guys might have to decide what -- what the  
11 goal is. If it's supposed to be both, you know, informative  
12 like -- like you also want to disclose is this guy just  
13 reading, you know, or does he actually have any idea what  
14 he's talking about, then don't give them the -- the  
15 answers -- or the questions; you can give them the topics,  
16 but you may not want to give them the actual question.

17 On the other hand, if you don't mind that they're  
18 really, really prepared, you know, you can give them the  
19 questions.

20 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: One thing -- one thing that you  
21 just said Constantin kind of struck a bell with me, you  
22 called it an interview. Do we want this to be an interview  
23 or do we want it to be more of a back-and-forth debate with  
24 the candidates engaging in each other?

25 What -- which -- which is best for the voters?

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1 MEMBER MCLEOD: Well, I think if you're trying to  
2 drive viewership, then you want back-and-forth between  
3 the -- the candidates. I think strong moderators do this  
4 well. You know, they allow -- they control the flow, the  
5 conversation, and make sure everybody gets a chance to deal  
6 with the questions and they can ask follow-up questions  
7 which, you know, you see sometimes in other countries like  
8 in England, you know, you see an American go on English TV  
9 and they kind of get blown out of the water because, you  
10 know, the interviewer will ask a follow-up question and --  
11 and push them, and it's much more revealing for the -- the  
12 viewers.

13 So I think moderators and follow-up questions make  
14 sense.

15 On the question of the questions, giving them in  
16 advance, I think it might make sense to give topics in  
17 advance but then allow the moderator to figure out how to  
18 word the questions.

19 MEMBER QUERARD: Rodd, what do you think about  
20 allow -- having a portion of it, so okay here are five  
21 topics and then you each get to submit a question you want  
22 us to ask?

23 Now obviously candidates will submit questions that  
24 put their opponents in an odd spot that contrasts well in  
25 their favor but, I mean, that's a -- that's what every

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1 election is supposed to be, I'm contrasting me to you, you  
2 to me. Does it -- does it discourage participation 'cause  
3 I'm afraid of that tough question; does it encourage it  
4 because I get to ask my tough question?

5 Like, what do you think about -- because that will  
6 create healthy friction.

7 MEMBER MCLEOD: Yeah, I think -- I think healthy  
8 friction is -- is good. I -- I think it's -- I think it's  
9 better for the moderators to kind of formulate these  
10 questions. But, you know -- it just feels -- it gets into  
11 the game show situation when, like, you know, I get to ask  
12 you: Well Mr. Querard, how come, you know, you were  
13 arrested for DUI in 2018?" Obviously I have no idea if  
14 Mr. Querard even drinks. I'm just saying you know...

15 MEMBER QUERARD: Not professionally.

16 MEMBER SENSEMAN: I think -- I think that's a great  
17 example of why it should be there, 'cause one thing I want  
18 is somebody to represent me that can think on their feet and  
19 answer a question like that appropriately, can come back and  
20 say "what in the world are you talking about?" You know,  
21 somebody that's not thrown off, that's not overly offended  
22 by a stupid question, that can sit there and go, Wow, you  
23 took -- you took that opportunity to ask that question?  
24 Well, here's your answer; why didn't you ask a better  
25 question?

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1 Like, I mean, somebody who can take that and run  
2 with it and show me they speak on their feet. They can  
3 handle themselves without getting over the top, that would  
4 be -- that's a fantastic to reason to have -- have them  
5 interject a question that they want is the answer. The  
6 answer they get is going to be the most telling of all  
7 without creating a circus.

8 MEMBER MCLEOD: Fair point.

9 MEMBER QUERARD: If you have a candidate that  
10 doesn't want to participate because they're afraid of a  
11 tough question, I don't know, I'm not -- I'm not sure that's  
12 a candidate you necessarily should be catering to when  
13 you're designing your debate rules.

14 MEMBER SENSEMAN: No. In fact, that's one thing  
15 you want, if they're going to cower from that, you got to  
16 make the point that they refused to participate and that's  
17 kind of pathetic.

18 I mean obviously it's got to be not like: Do you  
19 still molest your children? I mean, you can't have, you  
20 know, something crazy, but (technical disruption) factually.

21 MEMBER GENTLES: Isn't that what we're talking  
22 about when you have the candidates submit a question?

23 You know that -- that just opens up for, you know,  
24 the questions just to go completely off the rails, right?

25 You know, off (simultaneous crosstalk) kind of questions

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1 where --

2 MEMBER SENSEMAN: The fact that they're in advance  
3 wouldn't you think that somebody would go, you know what --  
4 I mean a moderator or whoever goes: This is so far out of  
5 line. I mean, if they're a little out of line, let them  
6 hang themselves; but if they go up and say: Hey, do you  
7 still molest children? Well, you know, seriously, we're not  
8 going to let you ask that question because that's just way  
9 out of line.

10 MEMBER GENTLES: So that's --

11 MEMBER SENSEMAN: (Simultaneous crosstalk.)

12 MEMBER GENTLES: -- it's incumbent on the moderator  
13 then to -- to be very judicious about the question that gets  
14 through.

15 MEMBER QUERARD: So you get to submit three  
16 questions and we'll pick one or something.

17 MEMBER GENTLES: Right.

18 MEMBER QUERARD: 'Cause what I'm anticipating is:  
19 Explain your vote on HB whatever whatever, the this bill, I  
20 want to know why you voted yes when you told us in your last  
21 campaign you're going to be a no.

22 I mean, that's the kind of question I'm  
23 anticipating to create contrast, put you on the spot a  
24 little bit, make me look good. You're going to have your  
25 own question back to me for something else.

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1 If it's something that's decidedly personal or  
2 something, I mean you can just say, Hey, you know, your  
3 question cannot include, whatever, attacks or mentions of a  
4 candidate's family, blah, blah, blah. You can probably put  
5 some limitations on it. But we want you as a candidate to  
6 know that the issues that you're campaigning on are going to  
7 be a part of this debate. They are not likely to be the  
8 entirety of this debate; there are certain general themes  
9 that every voter cares about, but we also want you to know  
10 that this time you're spending here is going to be worth  
11 something for you, that you're going to get a chance to talk  
12 about the thing you want to talk about.

13 That -- that's one option we could do, and the  
14 question is how do you -- how do you get that one thing?

15 Give me -- give me three questions and I'll pick  
16 one? You know. Unless they're also terrible enough to come  
17 back and say, guy, you know, every one of those violates  
18 our -- our rules on attacking a candidate's family or  
19 personal or whatever, you know. If you've done something  
20 that's personally scandalous in your official capacity,  
21 you're doing something at, you know, at the legislature on  
22 property that you're not supposed to be doing or something,  
23 ah, maybe that's a question.

24 Frankly, if you don't allow it as a question, I can  
25 still work it into one of my answers. Like, it's not like

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1 you're not going to stop us from -- from bringing it up and  
2 talking about it; but most -- most questions will be policy  
3 based, the question is do you want to offer candidates the  
4 chance to submit a question as an incentive to participate  
5 in the debates, and then does it make the debate more  
6 interesting?

7 Sorry.

8 MS. ROBERTS: No, my apologies; I just wanted to  
9 provide some background on what we do, just what we do as  
10 staff. When we -- sometimes we do get questions that are  
11 very inappropriate and we don't even share those with the  
12 moderator. So we fil- -- we screen those here at Clean  
13 Elections as staff, anything that is vulgar, you know, we  
14 withhold those and we don't even share them with the  
15 moderator to get -- to let those pass through. So I just  
16 wanted to provide clarification that the moderator is  
17 actually removed from that process if it is that extreme.

18 And then if it comes to the point where the  
19 question is worded in such a way that you know is trying to  
20 be like a gotcha or something, but there's -- you can still  
21 tell there's clearly a substantive discussion there, a  
22 policy discussion or why did you vote that way, then, yes,  
23 obviously we will still give it to the moderator; and then  
24 at that point, you know, the moderator may reframe it so  
25 it's not coming off as an attack on the candidate, but more

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1 just, you know, on the up and up, if you had the opportunity  
2 to say as an incentive, we're going to let candidates and  
3 their committees engage in the question asking, is that  
4 something that incentivizes you or is that helpful?

5 I'm just -- I'm just kind of, you know, as a  
6 practical matter, how does -- how does that hit you?

7 MEMBER QUERARD: More often than not, it's likely  
8 to incentivize because you -- the whole point of the debate  
9 is, you know, I want to contrast myself with the other  
10 person, and I want to win that contrast.

11 And some of these debates, frankly, can be  
12 really -- we had two -- two, so 2018, it was a Republican  
13 primary debate, it was like an hour long, I swear they must  
14 have spent 50 minutes talking ability K12 issues. K12 is  
15 big; it's half the budget, but it's not 50 out of 60 minutes  
16 for Republican primary voter. But it's what the moderator's  
17 interest was. And you do those and you're like, Okay, we  
18 should never do this again. Whereas if you know that in  
19 advance we're going to hit these five issues, that's already  
20 some relief; if you get the opportunity to say, Hey, can we  
21 at least talk about this issue, if I can't submit the  
22 question, can I at least make sure this issue is being  
23 discussed because it gives me a chance to pivot to the thing  
24 I want to say? Even that would be something.

25 If we've got a chance to actually submit a couple

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1 about let's get to that substantive policy discussion here.

2 So I just wanted to provide -- provide  
3 clarification on what we do right now.

4 MEMBER QUERARD: Great.

5 I would imagine some of these public comments are  
6 being -- are being submitted by people on behalf of the  
7 campaigns. So to a certain degree just asking them in  
8 advance for, Hey, what question do you want, might eliminate  
9 some of those public submissions that, you know...

10 MEMBER JONES: Mr. Chairman can, I do a cross --  
11 cross question to another member?

12 MEMBER MCLEOD: I don't think that's allowed by the  
13 rules of the debate.

14 MEMBER JONES: Clearly, we need for staff  
15 (simultaneous crosstalk).

16 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Sure, Christine. Mr. --

17 MEMBER JONES: I am curious because CQ manages so  
18 many legislative candidates that are germane to this  
19 discussion. I mean, on the statewide races our debates and  
20 forum tend to be one or the other, it's a subject matter  
21 debate or it's an all-in debate and typically a candidate's  
22 staff is submitting things.

23 But CQ, can you help us understand, how active  
24 would you be, would you be submitting things on behalf of  
25 your candidate? I'm not suggesting anything nefarious here

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1 of questions, I think that would be an incentive.

2 You know, if you've got a candidate who's got a  
3 particular area of weakness and you don't want that  
4 question, that's the decision you're going to have to make  
5 but, frankly, your opponent is probably smart enough to  
6 bring it up anyway, so. I don't see it as a reason to avoid  
7 a debate, but it might be an additional reason to  
8 participate.

9 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: So we're down --

10 MEMBER JONES: Well, just so to your earlier  
11 point -- sorry, just real quick.

12 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Sure.

13 MEMBER JONES: To your earlier point, if they don't  
14 get asked, they're going to work it into an answer anyway,  
15 right?

16 MEMBER QUERARD: But it might be cleaner and neater  
17 if it's in the form of an actual question.

18 MEMBER SENSEMAN: And it takes away some of the  
19 circus atmosphere, which --

20 MEMBER QUERARD: The question also kind of  
21 encourages the opponent to have to answer. 'Cause I can  
22 work it in as a side shot, but it can be brushed off and,  
23 "Okay, and our next question is," and it never comes back  
24 up, whereas if it's an actual question-question, your  
25 opponent kind of has to answer or at least has to respond.

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1 They can dance sideways if they want to, but if there's  
 2 something that is of interest -- if there's something that  
 3 makes a difference between the candidates or that you think  
 4 this is the thing voters should know between me and you to  
 5 help them decide, then that's probably going to be a value  
 6 to your viewers.  
 7 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: So --  
 8 MEMBER QUERARD: And so the question is, how do we  
 9 get there?  
 10 MS. ROBERTS: And I'm sorry, I have to jump in. I  
 11 know we have just a few minutes left and I know we typically  
 12 reserve the last minute for the spokesperson to recap; but  
 13 before we do that, the -- and I think this may just be for  
 14 Rodd only, and I know you've turned your camera off so I'm  
 15 not sure if you're still at your -- okay. Perfect.  
 16 MEMBER MCLEOD: Just dealing with dog issues.  
 17 MS. ROBERTS: Oh. So the last group, the last  
 18 breakout session, they sort of went out of order on the  
 19 agenda, and so I needed to touch base here and allow anybody  
 20 that was in the previous group, so who wasn't with me -- and  
 21 I think here that would just be you Rodd -- to have the  
 22 opportunity if you wanted to weigh in any opinions on  
 23 separating our debates in the primary by party and by  
 24 Chamber.  
 25 So, again, the last group they didn't really focus  
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1 one party will deal with another party.  
 2 I mean, I've -- I've seen these cattle calls, you  
 3 know, where like you got 13 people on the stage and, you  
 4 know, it's actually interesting to see what, you know, for  
 5 people in one party to see people in the other party and  
 6 kind of get a sense of what they care about and what they  
 7 want to talk about. That's my two cents.  
 8 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you.  
 9 I know we have just a few seconds left, Karl if you  
 10 have any clarification you need from the group to report  
 11 back?  
 12 MEMBER GENTLES: No. I -- I think I got  
 13 everything.  
 14 MS. ROBERTS: Okay.  
 15 MEMBER GENTLES: Hopefully I captured it fairly  
 16 accurately.  
 17 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: I have no doubt you did.  
 18 MEMBER GENTLES: We'll see.  
 19 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: We'll see, yes.  
 20 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you, everybody.  
 21 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay. Thank you.  
 22  
 23 \* \* \*  
 24  
 25 ///  
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1 on that too much --  
 2 MEMBER MCLEOD: Yeah, we never got to that question  
 3 in Group B.  
 4 MS. ROBERTS: Right.  
 5 MEMBER MCLEOD: My sense is that it should be  
 6 separated by Chamber. I thought Bob Robson made a fair  
 7 point about that, you know.  
 8 And I don't think it should be separated by party.  
 9 And I -- I know the Independents won't even be in the  
 10 primaries, but I just think if you're trying to drive  
 11 participation, if you're trying to drive viewership, if  
 12 that's what our goal is is to get more people to pay  
 13 attention, then having an open forum with all the candidates  
 14 for a particular office is -- is useful. That might be a  
 15 statute problem, the way your statute is written; I have no  
 16 idea.  
 17 But I would say -- you know.  
 18 MEMBER QUERARD: You mean, that's for a primary  
 19 debate?  
 20 MEMBER MCLEOD: Yeah.  
 21 MEMBER QUERARD: Primary you have the Democrats and  
 22 Republicans answering questions at the same time?  
 23 MEMBER MCLEOD: Yeah, and it's an hour and -- you  
 24 know, 'cause I think then the viewer gets a real sense about  
 25 what the parties care about and -- and how the members of  
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1 (BREAKOUT SESSION GROUP B - 11:21 a.m.)  
 2 MR. XOLA: Here we go. All right, thank you,  
 3 everybody. So it appears we have got it backwards, that's  
 4 my fault. I'm sorry.  
 5 So right now we're going to discuss the format of  
 6 the debate, including the structure of the legislative  
 7 debates by party and Chamber.  
 8 MR. COLLINS: So some of you were in the prior  
 9 workgroup and are now in this one, so there may be some  
 10 redundancy. We're going to have to try to capture a little  
 11 bit of both, Avery --  
 12 MR. XOLA: Yes.  
 13 MR. COLLINS: -- make everybody feel like  
 14 they're -- we're getting all those, all those voices.  
 15 And so I'm trying to get a brief kind of a head  
 16 count here as I'm reading.  
 17 We've got -- how many of us -- how many are there?  
 18 There's 12 of us in here. It looks --  
 19 MR. XOLA: Three.  
 20 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, it looks like Renaldo, Jodi,  
 21 Pinny -- no. Sorry about this, I think it will be easier to  
 22 deal with if (technical disruption).  
 23 So Jodi, Pinny, and Renaldo were in the last group.  
 24 So I don't -- and then -- and then everybody else was in the  
 25 other.  
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1 So Avery, how does this sound, can we -- can we do,  
 2 as you said, a quick take from the three folks here who  
 3 haven't talked about the partisan breakdown stuff, if they  
 4 have thoughts on that, and then -- and then move on to the  
 5 (technical disruption).  
 6 MR. XOLA: That's good.  
 7 MR. COLLINS: That work?  
 8 MR. XOLA: Yeah. Yeah, that's a good idea.  
 9 So let's -- yeah, that's a good idea. So let's go  
 10 ahead and start off with the members from the last group,  
 11 from my group, how do you feel about the primary debates?  
 12 Do you think they should be separated by party and Chamber?  
 13 What are your thoughts on that?  
 14 (No audible response.)  
 15 MR. XOLA: Or do you think they shouldn't be  
 16 separated? Any comments on that?  
 17 MR. COLLINS: So just to put this in context a  
 18 little bit and maybe prompt some thought, and I don't know  
 19 if (technical disruption).  
 20 One of the things that we've heard over the years  
 21 from -- from corners is that -- and, you know, assuming our  
 22 current primary system, right, so we definitely (technical  
 23 disruption) the law that we have, in the primaries are, you  
 24 know, things (technical disruption) pros and cons of -- of  
 25 having, you know, Senate Republican primary debate and a  
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1 limit is very, very helpful.  
 2 You can still -- I think you can still drive  
 3 conversation and have rebuttal time, but the problem is you  
 4 can get stuck on one -- one issue and not have the ability  
 5 to cover other issues, especially in this current -- in this  
 6 current climate where things get very contentious and it  
 7 just -- it just feels like, you know, I know last year  
 8 having been involved with some of the conversations about  
 9 debates, makes candidates not wanting to participate because  
 10 they felt that that open format was setting them up to be  
 11 beaten up.  
 12 So I -- I'm -- I kind of support that harder  
 13 deadline, the rule.  
 14 MR. XOLA: Interesting insight. Thank you. Thank  
 15 you for that.  
 16 Does anyone have any comments about this? Time  
 17 limit, hard or soft? Who does it benefit?  
 18 (No audible response.)  
 19 MR. XOLA: No? All right, I will move on to  
 20 rebuttals. How do you feel about rebuttals for all  
 21 candidates, is it down the line with rebuttals or should a  
 22 candidate be able to interject when they feel that it is  
 23 necessary?  
 24 And then we also in the last group, I should  
 25 preface it, we talked about fact checking a lot and that was  
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1 Democratic Senate primary debate as opposed to (technical  
 2 disruption) the last -- at least the last -- at least the  
 3 (technical disruption), you know, everybody in a -- in a  
 4 (technical disruption).  
 5 MR. XOLA: All right. I don't -- no one is feeling  
 6 the...  
 7 MR. COLLINS: Okay. Well, let's move on to the  
 8 rules I think.  
 9 MR. XOLA: All right, yeah. So we will move on.  
 10 So we've already kind of covered this in our group,  
 11 but I'm interested to hear what you all from the other  
 12 group, from Gina's group thought about, did you -- the rules  
 13 for the debate, so how do you feel about time limits? Do  
 14 you believe a time limit -- a hard time limit is beneficial,  
 15 or do you think a soft time limit is beneficial; and also is  
 16 it beneficial for the candidate and the voter or which one  
 17 or both?  
 18 If anyone wants to jump in there.  
 19 MEMBER SIMPSON: I think my -- my preference is  
 20 there's a -- there is a hard deadline given with where there  
 21 are some sort of visual clues. Having moderated events in  
 22 the past, it's helpful as a moderator -- I mean, if -- you  
 23 still have the discretion to let it continue, but if you  
 24 have a candidate that's getting out of hand or you're having  
 25 trouble cutting off, the ability to fall back on a hard time  
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1 something that was brought up, and I think someone made a  
 2 comment, I think it was Member Liggett perhaps, made a  
 3 comment that the rebuttals -- or Tom, it may have been  
 4 you -- said the rebuttals -- it wasn't Tom, okay. That said  
 5 the rebuttals were the moment, that was the time that the  
 6 candidates can do fact checking 'cause the opposition  
 7 candidate could always use his or her rebuttal to  
 8 fact-check, right.  
 9 But what -- what does everyone think about  
 10 rebuttals and how should those be handled by the moderator?  
 11 MEMBER KLINE: Speaking just as a broadcaster that  
 12 has participated in these debates over the years, structure  
 13 has always worked best on our side. So whether we're  
 14 talking about time limits or we're talking rebuttal, having  
 15 clearly defined rules and guidelines ensures equity and  
 16 prevents any one candidate from dominating the discussion.  
 17 So in that vein, you know my -- my voice would be  
 18 to support structure with how rebuttals are built, time  
 19 limits for those rebuttals, in the same way we talk about  
 20 previous structure on time limits in general.  
 21 MEMBER SIMPSON: Yeah, and I mean typically debates  
 22 you get one to two minutes to answer the question, and then  
 23 whoever wants to rebut the comment gets a minute; and I  
 24 think you just go down the line with whoever is  
 25 participating and they get their one minute. 'Cause not  
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1 everybody may want to -- they want to rebut something.  
 2 MR. XOLA: That's true. That's true.  
 3 And then what about, what if -- so what if someone  
 4 doesn't want to be cut off, are you -- do you try to cut  
 5 them off, the moderator cuts them off and they just keep  
 6 going, should mics be muted or how should the moderator  
 7 handle that?  
 8 MEMBER SIMPSON: I'm -- I think there should be the  
 9 ability, if a candidate gets out of control, to mute them.  
 10 MR. XOLA: So you believe in muting mics? Does  
 11 everyone agree with that, think that -- oh. Member Liggett  
 12 has her hand raised.  
 13 Yes.  
 14 MEMBER LIGGETT: Hi. Just to that point, it just  
 15 occurred to me, just something to keep in the back of our  
 16 minds, like we're talking about hard and soft rules. Though  
 17 when you relax rules I think that's when norms come into  
 18 play, right, and people really differ in -- in their ability  
 19 or their desire, right, to maintain or obey norms; and I  
 20 think that's where we get into problems is, you know,  
 21 removing some of the rules and expecting -- you know, we  
 22 have norms in our head and we just expect that people will  
 23 obey those.  
 24 But you have really bellicose or really aggressive  
 25 folks that can just derail the whole thing. So I guess I'm  
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1 cut your mic off, okay; you're not in control of the debate.  
 2 And so that -- whoever -- I think that's important  
 3 that that's established: You're not in control of the  
 4 debate; you're a participant of the debate. But you're not  
 5 in control of this debate.  
 6 So, whatever -- whatever -- again, whatever format  
 7 we create, understand here is what the rules are and we  
 8 convey that information to the candidates.  
 9 MR. XOLA: Thank you. Thank you.  
 10 MEMBER SIMPSON: I think it speaks to equity within  
 11 there -- if we follow that same rigid rule, no matter who  
 12 the moderator is, it makes it hard to call partisanship  
 13 where, oh, I let, you know, this moderator leans left or  
 14 right and they let that guy ramble and they cut this guy  
 15 off. If it's just at two minutes, your mic is cut off,  
 16 it -- it takes the -- it kind of takes some of that piece of  
 17 it out of there.  
 18 And I think part of this -- Gina has mentioned, I  
 19 don't know if it's in this environment or a different one, I  
 20 think moderator choice is going to be really key to success  
 21 in next year's debate.  
 22 MR. XOLA: Thank you. Thank you for that.  
 23 MEMBER KLINE: In that -- in that same vein,  
 24 transparency will be -- is really important in whatever  
 25 rules are established because public perception is a big  
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1 making a case, even though I don't like things to be this  
 2 rigid, I think with some of the things we have going on now,  
 3 it does call for stronger guardrails, more, you know,  
 4 tightly enforced rules.  
 5 MR. XOLA: Okay. And so is that -- is that muted  
 6 mics, is that -- that would be a tool that you would say --  
 7 okay.  
 8 MEMBER FOWLER: Avery.  
 9 MR. XOLA: Yes.  
 10 MEMBER FOWLER: I clearly -- I clearly as Jodi  
 11 mentioned in these times is we need to control the debates.  
 12 If that means that we need to cut the mic off, because we  
 13 don't want showmanship, we want people to answer the  
 14 questions within the rules that we have; but also create an  
 15 environment where people can answer questions.  
 16 But clearly, I think some people may come in with a  
 17 strong personalty thinking "I'm in control of this no matter  
 18 what." But if you set the stage where, you know, here's  
 19 what the behavior is expected from you, I think that's  
 20 really clear. Because I look at some of the behaviors of  
 21 the politicians today, it is outrageous.  
 22 And so this is not a plat- -- this a serious  
 23 platform; it's not an entertainment platform. It's debate;  
 24 you're here to serve the people of Arizona, and that's how  
 25 it's going to be. So if we need to cut your mic off, we'll  
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1 piece of this as well; and ensuring even no perception of  
 2 bias is -- is I think critical, and when you get into muting  
 3 mics, you're going to inflame the situation, but that may be  
 4 the right solution.  
 5 And so making sure if that is a decision that is  
 6 made, that that is communicated in the debate publicly, that  
 7 it is explained when it happens during the debate because  
 8 I'm also protective of the Clean Elections' reputation, and  
 9 I don't want any change in the rules to come across or get  
 10 spun as anything more than a way to ensure equitable, fair  
 11 debates.  
 12 MR. XOLA: Thank you. Thank you for that comment.  
 13 And what about -- so I think we covered as far as  
 14 muting mics. So what about is -- do you all prefer a  
 15 forum-style debate or a true debate? Do you want it to lean  
 16 more to like a, you know, a typical debate, a textbook  
 17 debate, or more of like a discussion?  
 18 And -- and I should, I should back up a little bit.  
 19 How do you think -- what do you think the voter would like  
 20 to see? Like, do you think -- put your voter hat on. How  
 21 would a voter react to a discussion debate or a true debate,  
 22 and how do you think a candidate will perform in a  
 23 discussion debate versus a true debate?  
 24 Any thoughts on that?  
 25 MEMBER SIMPSON: I think talking about the  
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1 structure we're looking at, I think it -- I would lean  
2 toward true debate. You know, and that's in the -- our  
3 legislative districts, you know, if you look at the  
4 statewide debates that might be a different conversation  
5 when you get down to general or you're -- you're talking  
6 about Senate or whatever, but I think in a district, I think  
7 a true debate is probably preferable. As a voter that's  
8 what I prefer.

9 MR. XOLA: Okay. Anyone else want to add on to  
10 that?

(No audible response.)

12 MR. XOLA: All right, let's move on to the next.

13 So I what -- I think we've already discussed this,  
14 but interruptions. So, you know, are interruptions  
15 permitted at what -- at any point? How -- how do we feel  
16 about interruptions?

17 Like "to that point." Can there be any "to that  
18 point" interruptions in the debate or how does that -- how  
19 do you all feel about that?

20 MEMBER KLINE: To me it goes back to the structure  
21 piece of the puzzle here. If we're going to give each  
22 candidate let's say a minute and a half or two minutes to  
23 speak, then it's that candidate's two minutes to speak; and  
24 if the other candidate interrupts, that would not be  
25 appropriate with the protocols that we've set.

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1 MEMBER LIGGETT: And they have an opportunity to  
2 rebut, so. Right? I think they can just make a mental  
3 note.

4 MR. XOLA: Okay.

5 MEMBER LIGGETT: Right?

6 MEMBER FOWLER: So -- so I have a question for you.  
7 What if someone during the debate, just for conversational  
8 purpose, makes a personal -- personal comment, outrageous  
9 about the person, could be personal, could be about their  
10 mom, their dad? Do they wait 'til the debate -- to the  
11 rebuttal to respond to it?

12 So, you know, it's like -- like Chris said, it's  
13 the format, but what if somebody during that debate just  
14 says "I saw your wife walking down the street" or something  
15 in jest, how do you handle that situation? Because I -- I  
16 see that happening in -- in the future.

17 So what's your thoughts on that? I guess, you  
18 know, Chris, you talk about a strict debate, how do you deal  
19 with that when someone just says something so outrageous,  
20 that jest, you know, the person can't wait?

21 So how do you handle that? I mean --

22 MEMBER SHEORAN: Avery?

23 MEMBER FOWLER: -- how do you handle that question?

24 MEMBER SHEORAN: Yeah, Renaldo, Avery, if I might  
25 just weigh in. As a League we have a standing policy on

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1 this 'cause it happens --

2 MR. XOLA: Okay.

3 MEMBER SHEORAN: -- it's not necessarily new.

4 MEMBER FOWLER: Okay.

5 MEMBER SHEORAN: Our policy always has been that if  
6 someone interrupts, it takes away from the time that they're  
7 allocated. There's a penalty involved for that kind of  
8 misbehavior, and we have exercised it, unfortunately, more  
9 frequently than we would like to.

10 So you take away their time on the next question,  
11 they get less time or they do not get time for a rebuttal on  
12 the next question?

13 And I think it would be wise for the group to be  
14 thinking about what might that penalty look like it. The  
15 way we do it is "X" amount of time is removed, you know,  
16 until you have no time to be rebutting at all.

17 And I believe that was in the original presidential  
18 debate guidelines that were set and the League was  
19 instrumental in creating that commission, so we take from a  
20 lot of their thinking as to, you know, that original  
21 thinking. So you might want to check on that.

22 But a penalty mechanism then allows the moderator  
23 to manage those kind of interruptions. So if you interrupt  
24 again, and we saw that in the presidential supposed debates,  
25 and we've seen that in ours.

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1 So regardless, Renaldo, if the interruption is in a  
2 personal nature or not, if you are consistent in saying any  
3 interruptions other than when you're called on to speak, you  
4 know, there is a penalty involved. That's kind of how we  
5 approach it, you know. That's just a reco- -- suggestion.

6 MEMBER KLINE: I would add that to -- to Renaldo,  
7 your point, one of the reasons we're even having to have  
8 this conversation is because no matter what rules we set,  
9 right, people are going to be people.

10 MEMBER FOWLER: Mm-hm.

11 MEMBER KLINE: And in some respects that's --  
12 that's okay, because we live in a free society and we're not  
13 going to tell people what they can and can't do, but we're  
14 going to set guidelines.

15 So the way we have always treated it in the past is  
16 that, you know, if somebody chimes in because they feel like  
17 something has gone off the rails and they're not supposed to  
18 chime in at that point, right, they may make their point in  
19 a couple of seconds, and the moderator is going to say to  
20 them that they can respond when it's their turn; but I guess  
21 there's this careful balance between, we're going to have  
22 guides and we're going to allow people to still be people.

23 I also would say, though, that if -- if we're  
24 living in a world where, especially since most of these  
25 debates are on Zoom right now for the primaries and I don't

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1 think that's changing, Avery, right, is to the best of your  
2 knowledge, that if -- if one candidate has got a buck-thirty  
3 to speak, my gut is that the standard protocol is going to  
4 be to mute everybody on Zoom except for that candidate; and  
5 so, theoretically, nobody else is even going to be able to  
6 speak.

7 MR. XOLA: That's a good point.

8 MEMBER LIGGETT: To that point, and I think that's  
9 an excellent point, and inappropriate personal or otherwise  
10 attacks could occur in an interruption or in someone's  
11 remarks. And I just wanted to make the point I -- I know  
12 the discerning sometimes, you know, there are gray areas in  
13 people's conduct, but there's always a lot of really  
14 Black-and-white crap that happens; and I think we empower  
15 our moderators to, like, cut it off. We're not doing that  
16 here; this is not a forum for that.

17 I think -- I think we need to do that as -- as the  
18 guardians of this process. And, frankly, I also think we  
19 are educating the public about acceptable and unacceptable  
20 behavior. I think they should have learned that at home,  
21 but a lot of us haven't, and I -- I just -- I would love  
22 this group to play a role in bringing back that kind of  
23 civility and care for one another.

24 MEMBER FOWLER: And -- and like I said, my main  
25 thing is to make sure the moderator is in control. We let  
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1 direction or the other.

2 MR. COLLINS: And Lee, if you don't mind, which  
3 direction do you think is more candidate than the (technical  
4 disruption). I have a general sense of what it is.

5 MEMBER MILLER: I think -- I think the voter  
6 would -- would benefit most from maximizing participation,  
7 crafting a -- crafting a process that incentivizes all those  
8 non-participating candidates to show up, show their face,  
9 you know, get their words recorded for posterity and -- but  
10 that, you know, that -- the format and the process that --  
11 that will facilitate that, you know, might very well, from  
12 the perspective of TV, may be very boring.

13 But -- but I think if I were in your shoes, I'd  
14 want to -- I'd want to be presenting as many candidates as  
15 possible to the voters and -- and, you know, let them draw  
16 whatever conclusions they want to draw.

17 MR. COLLINS: So I guess my question I want to ask  
18 is within the -- we've talked a lot about in the last  
19 minutes about, you know, (technical disruption) rigidity to  
20 the rule. Your sense would be more that the candidates will  
21 (technical disruption) context or the candidate would --  
22 would (technical disruption)?

23 MEMBER MILLER: I -- I think -- I think most  
24 candidates -- I think most candidates would -- would prefer  
25 structure and having a level of confidence that they're --  
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1 the candidates know prior to them coming to this platform:  
2 Here's what's expected of you; it's designed to be a debate  
3 but, however, you're not going to be in control.

4 And so I think you let everyone knows the rules and  
5 I think that's a good point -- a good point to start from,  
6 and then cut people off if they need to cut them off. I  
7 think that's important.

8 MR. XOLA: Thank you. Thank you for all your --  
9 your feedback.

10 I want to ask Member Tulemello or Member Miller if  
11 they had any comments they would like to weigh in on this;  
12 I'm interested to hear what your feedback or insight would  
13 be.

14 MEMBER MILLER: Nothing further to that -- nothing  
15 further to add. You know, the group has captured I think  
16 the array of -- of alternatives.

17 That the -- I guess the -- the one comment I would  
18 offer at the 50,000-foot level is the -- the debate that is  
19 most interesting, most valuable to a voter and a viewer is  
20 not the debate that is -- probably not the debate that is --  
21 that a candidate is going to be most enthusiastic about.  
22 And so if the goal is to maximize candidate participation,  
23 we probably need to lean one direction; if the goal is to  
24 maximize voter interest, we probably will have to lean  
25 another way knowing that there are tradeoffs in leaning one  
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1 they are, not guaranteed, but they are unlikely to get  
2 steamrolled, to get -- to get dominated. If, you know --

3 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

4 MEMBER MILLER: -- candidates will have a good  
5 sense. By the time the Clean Elections debate rolls around,  
6 candidates know who they're running against; and -- and if  
7 their perception is, you know, I'm running against somebody  
8 who is -- who is, you know, just insists on dominating  
9 the -- the discussion, no matter what format and forum we're  
10 in, they're like, eh, you know, I -- I'll go talk to my own  
11 people, you know.

12 But -- but, yeah, I think, you know, candidates  
13 want a level of confidence that they're going to get a fair  
14 shake, and having a structure and sticking to that structure  
15 will go far towards building a level of confidence  
16 candidates are going to get a fair shake.

17 MR. XOLA: Thank you. Thank you, Member Miller.  
18 Member Tulemello, would you like to -- to add to  
19 that for your own comment?

20 MEMBER TULEMELLO: Just some real high-level  
21 preferences, I guess.

22 Really like the idea of dividing the debate in  
23 terms of here's the House candidates and here's the Senate  
24 candidates; I think for voter clarity that's really  
25 important. We talked about that in the other call.  
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1 I also think it's important, and Chris mentioned it  
 2 and several others, transparency on what the rules are and  
 3 getting people, you know, in their agreement to participate  
 4 to agree to certain rules of decorum in terms of how the  
 5 debate will play out. And that at that point, they would  
 6 have an understanding if they don't abide by the agreed-upon  
 7 rules, they'll be cut off during the debate. That might  
 8 give some comfort to those who worry about being sandbagged  
 9 in a debate.

10 And, you know, I really like the debate for- --  
 11 format as a voter because you get a little back-and-forth  
 12 rather than talking points. You know, it's unwatchable  
 13 to -- except for maybe the candidate's family -- to listen  
 14 to them kind of tick off talking points. So those would  
 15 be my, just my quick points.

16 MR. XOLA: Thank you. Thank you, I appreciate  
 17 that.

18 Does anyone else want to add to this to anything  
 19 that's been said?

20 MEMBER SIMPSON: I think I just want to add that as  
 21 we talk about we need to make the -- the rules clear to the  
 22 candidates, I think it's important for Clean Elections to  
 23 make their rules clear to voters, so that if they tune in,  
 24 they understand why the format is the way that it is.

25 So I think maybe, you know, Tom as we look at, you  
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1 figuring out who the right moderators are that can walk that  
 2 line.

3 Because there's -- there is a middle ground here  
 4 where a moderator without coming across as heavy-handed or  
 5 even the appearance of bias can raise a question back to a  
 6 candidate if there is something that is, right, to use the  
 7 line from earlier "over the line" or just "Black and white,"  
 8 and then there are other moments where things might be a  
 9 little less clear where a moderator may in the moment make  
 10 the decision that they're not going to touch that because  
 11 that's what the voters make their own decision on.

12 MR. XOLA: All right. Yeah, yeah, in my personal  
 13 experience, me watching debates, I prefer when the  
 14 moderators ask clarifying questions as to not say: Hey,  
 15 well, you're wrong on this -- or actually, like, not that,  
 16 but just kind of ask clarifying so the voter can get a real  
 17 perception of what the candidate is answering or what their  
 18 comments are pertaining to.

19 But yeah, thank you for that comment. I appreciate  
 20 that.

21 Does anyone else have any comment about the  
 22 moderators and if they should engage in a discussion for the  
 23 candidates?

24 MEMBER FOWLER: Avery, I kind of believe as Chris  
 25 mentions, it's a fine line, but I think if the moderator  
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1 know, communication to voters is to make sure that, Hey,  
 2 this is -- these are the new rules. This is what we're  
 3 following; this is what you can expect to see. So -- so the  
 4 voters are -- you don't get any, any bad comments back from  
 5 the public in general that you -- we were mean to somebody.

6 MR. XOLA: Fair enough. That make -- yeah, that  
 7 makes sense.

8 Let's -- we have time for one more question, I'm  
 9 going to ask that. So how do you all feel about moderators  
 10 engaging candidates in discussion?

11 So should they -- should the moderators, like, push  
 12 back on a candidate or should they just provide context to  
 13 the question and just let the candidate answer how they feel  
 14 that they need to?

15 And this kind of goes back to, I guess, to the  
 16 fact-checking thing that we all talked about. Do you --  
 17 will you all want the moderator to be the one to do the fact  
 18 check as a pushback or should the moderator just set up the  
 19 question in a way that the context is there and the facts  
 20 are there, and the candidate answers how they -- you know,  
 21 how they wish to answer if that makes sense.

22 MEMBER KLINE: I think this one is really hard  
 23 because you're never going to please everybody and there's  
 24 going to be strong opinions with this one on both sides, but  
 25 I do think it underscores the importance and value of  
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1 asks kind of a clarification versus, you know, implied about  
 2 something; but then again, you want to make sure that that  
 3 moderator is not being biased and so.

4 But I think a follow-up clarification is fine, but  
 5 you just got to have somebody who is trained and has the  
 6 skills and ability to do that without coming across --  
 7 coming across as a biased person, so. That's just kind of  
 8 my perspective.

9 MR. XOLA: Thank you. Thank you.

10 All right, we have about like 25 seconds. Who  
 11 wants to be the spokesperson for the team?

12 Do not raise your hands all at once.

13 Anybody?

14 MEMBER FOWLER: Can I draft Chris?

15 MEMBER JACKSON: I was going to say, he did such a  
 16 good job for our group last time; I vote for it.

17 MEMBER FOWLER: Okay. Okay.

18

19 \* \* \*

20

21 (GENERAL SESSION - 11:51 a.m.)

22 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: I think we're all back together  
 23 now. We'll first go to the spokesperson for Group A, Karl,  
 24 what are your -- what did your group talk about?

25 MEMBER GENTLES: Sure. We -- we had several topics  
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1 that we discussed, but it came down to, based on time just a  
2 few here.

3 One was on time limits, if we should have them. I  
4 think the group consensus was that we should be soft on  
5 those time limits but fair, but we still need us some  
6 structure on some basic rules, some basic ground rules; and  
7 then moderator could use their discretion in terms of the  
8 time that each candidate has to give each other -- each a  
9 fair chance, but be very clear up front about what those  
10 rules were.

11 A lot of discussion around interruptions, should  
12 the moderator allow interruptions, what the protocol is  
13 around that. I think the consensus was that we want to have  
14 some the decorum that would allow -- that would basically  
15 avoid an all out "food fight." I think that was the  
16 technical political term that was used.

17 So more structured; allow some injection, but we  
18 really need to institute some civility, but ensure some  
19 civility around how those injections occur.

20 But we want to be not too melted (phonetic) on  
21 enforcing the rule; it really comes down to the moderator  
22 controlling interruptions and indicating to the interrupter  
23 that they would come back to allow them a few seconds to  
24 respond.

25 But overall having rules that are -- that are

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1 question about the breaking-out sessions whether by party  
2 or -- or by -- let's see, party or by Chamber, and he seemed  
3 to think that separating by Chamber makes sense but not by  
4 party.

5 So hopefully that captured it. If anybody has  
6 anything else to add, please speak up.

7 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: No, I think you did a very good  
8 job, Karl.

9 Who is the spokesman for Group B?

10 MEMBER KLINE: It is me.

11 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: You again, Chris.

12 MEMBER KLINE: It is -- it is me, yes, drafted at  
13 the last minute but we're going to make it work.

14 Our -- our theme I think of conversation was  
15 rallying around the idea that structure is important to  
16 ensure a fair and robust debate, and so we talked a lot  
17 about time limits. And it seemed like one of the -- one of  
18 the points we rallied behind was the time limits were  
19 important, that those time limits should apply to both a  
20 candidate speaking as well as to rebuttal opportunities, and  
21 that because of that, interruptions by candidates need to be  
22 minimized.

23 We spoke extensively as Group A did about how key  
24 the moderator is for these debates; not just to literally  
25 moderating the debate but also to ensure transparency and

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1 complied with was really important. And some -- there was  
2 some discussion about whether or not that should be left to  
3 the moderator or not because that puts them in a position of  
4 potentially being -- you know, being too far injected into  
5 the conversations. So there's also conversation about using  
6 some devices to help control the conversation, like some  
7 sound or audio devices, maybe a mute button that would be  
8 used. So there was a little bit of conversation about that.

9 But overall (speaker interruption) overall -- so  
10 but there was really a conversation about really being  
11 driven by structure 'cause that is I heard from the  
12 conversation would produce more confidence in the debate,  
13 more turnout. Might be a little bit less exciting but does  
14 institute a little bit more control and structure.

15 And then finally about questions in the debate, how  
16 should those be handled, should they be provided up front or  
17 only at the events. I think the general consensus was that  
18 give the topic up front but leave it up to the moderator to  
19 ask the specific question. And that would help -- I think  
20 that would help really gauge the candidate on how they're  
21 able to handle the question, if they're able to think on  
22 their feet, their mental acuity, et cetera.

23 So I think hopefully that captures the general  
24 conversation.

25 At the end Rodd McLeod was asked about the previous

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1 clarity to both the candidates throughout the debate but  
2 equally as important to the voters that are watching or  
3 participating.

4 We talked about the fact that these debates are a  
5 reflection on Clean Elections, and because of that, there's  
6 nothing more sacrosanct than making sure these debates come  
7 across as equitable and fair and nonbiased, and that is  
8 going to, no matter what format we proceed with, be  
9 dependent upon very strong moderators who can act in the  
10 interest of the voters without coming across as biased to  
11 one candidate or the other.

12 We -- we also talked a little bit about whether it  
13 was appropriate for moderators to push back on a candidate  
14 if something inflammatory or black-and-white factually  
15 incorrect was said, and I think we -- we all seem to again  
16 rally behind the idea that it's a very fine line and a  
17 difficult line, but one of them -- one of the points that  
18 perhaps most well spokenly described this was to say the  
19 answer might be to ask clarifying question instead of to  
20 simply try to rebut something that was said.

21 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you. Two -- two very good  
22 discussions. Very good.

23 With that, I want to move on to Item VII, public  
24 comment. This is the time for consideration of comments and  
25 suggestions from the public. Action taken as a result of

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1 public comment will be limited to directing staff to study  
2 the matter or rescheduling the matter for further  
3 consideration and decision at a later date or responding to  
4 criticism.

5 Are there any members of the public who wish to  
6 make a comment? You can use the Zoom feature to raise your  
7 hand, come off mute, or do something else to get my  
8 attention.

9 Nathan Madden.

10 MR. MADDEN: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman. I -- I will  
11 repeat my previous question and then I also have a comment  
12 from the breakout session.

13 The -- my previous comment was that I know that  
14 this Commission has had a somewhat tenuous relationship with  
15 the Cronkite School, the Public Broadcasting System of  
16 Arizona, what has the Commission and staff done to either  
17 repair this or move forward with a different broadcasting  
18 partner?

19 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Well, as I -- as I was saying  
20 just a minute ago, we're not in a position to -- to respond  
21 directly to that, but we'll get into discussing broad- --  
22 broadcast partners and other partners and moderators in  
23 future sessions.

24 MR. MADDEN: Okay. And then if -- if I may, I have  
25 one more comment referring to what I witnessed in the

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1 breakout session?

2 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Okay.

3 MR. MADDEN: I just want to say that it was said  
4 multiple times that the -- there was an unwillingness to  
5 divide by party in the primary debates. If you do not  
6 divide by partisan basis, then all you are doing is creating  
7 a second general debate with more candidates; that's all  
8 that does.

9 So I would -- I would definitely recommend that  
10 this Commission stay away from that line of thinking because  
11 the primaries are for the partisan discussions.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. ROBERTS: You're on mute, Chairman.

14 MEMBER MCLEOD: Mark, you're on mute.

15 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Thank you. Thank you.

16 Eventually I'll learn how to operate Zoom.

17 Item VIII, adjournment. Our next meeting will be  
18 one week from today, April 20th, at 10:00 a.m.

19 If there are no objections, we will adjourn. We  
20 will adjourn.

21 (No audible response.)

22 CHAIRMAN KIMBLE: Seeing no objections, we are  
23 adjourned.

24 Thank you very much for your time.

25 (Meeting concludes at 12:00 p.m.)

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2  
3 STATE OF ARIZONA )  
4 ) ss.  
5 COUNTY OF MARICOPA )  
6

7 BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were  
8 taken before me, Angela Furniss Miller, Certified Reporter  
9 No. 50127, all done to the best of my skill and ability;  
10 that the proceedings were taken down by me in shorthand and  
11 thereafter reduced to print under my direction.

12 I CERTIFY that I am in no way related to any of the  
13 parties hereto nor am I in any way interested in the outcome  
14 thereof.

15 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I have complied with the  
16 requirements set forth in ACJA 7-206. Dated at Litchfield  
17 Park, Arizona, this 18th of April, 2023.

18  
19 \_\_\_\_\_  
20 Angela Furniss Miller, RPR, CR  
21 CERTIFIED REPORTER (AZ50127)

22 \* \* \*

23 I CERTIFY that Miller Certified Reporting, LLC, has  
24 complied with the requirements set forth in ACJA 7-201 and  
25 7-206. Dated at LITCHFIELD PARK, Arizona, this 18th of  
April, 2023.

26  
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