

## **Oxnard Special Recall Election 3-15-18 Debate- Rules of Engagement** (rev2- 2-25-18)

(note- projected times are still a bit long. This can be remedied by no-shows or eliminating questions)

The purpose of this debate will be to provide voters with information on who the candidates are, background, experience, record, views, motivations, abilities. Incumbents can defend their records, abilities and outline future plans. Challengers can show the public why they believe a change is needed and convince voters they could do better

All recall incumbents and challengers to be invited.

Debates to be organized by incumbent challenges. Two smallest groups might be combined.

Debate to run from 6-9 pm.

An objective moderator to be utilized.

Timekeeper to be used.

Personal attacks will not be tolerated, unless it can be shown directly relevant to doing the job.

Intimidating gestures or language, really racist and sexist language will not be tolerated. One warning. Next incident: ejection from event.

### **Debate Questions**

Question submissions from the public, team, candidates, will be accepted in advance. These will be reviewed by the team and NOT disclosed outside of the team, especially not to any candidates or campaign people. The organizing team may specify nature of questions and minimum requirements. Moderator will select the rest of them from submissions and may even write some.

There may be time to take additional questions on the event night. At this point we do not anticipate taking live questions from the audience, although it might be done, time permitting and with moderator approval of the questions.

### **Debate Procedure**

Emcee will introduce Moderator(s). Moderator will explain rules, then run the debates.

For each debate group:

Candidates to introduce selves in their opening statements,

Each candidate will have 1.5 minutes to present background, qualifications, accomplishments, why seeking position, why would they be better than what we have now. We asked all candidates to provide a candidate profile for the Citizens Journal Candidates Corner section, to be made available to the public. If these are not provided as requested or not responsive, this WILL be noted by the moderator.

Candidates will be asked questions in a varying sequence so that one candidate is not always asked first or last.

Questions will be asked orally by the Moderator and also displayed on a wall monitor, with time remaining to answer.

Candidates will have .75 minute (45 seconds) to answer most questions

We may have a "lightning round" of 20-30 second answers to a battery of questions, time permitting.

Candidates will have a two minute closing statement. They may use this to summarize why to vote for them, clarify or respond to previous arguments.

Question response time allowances may be changed to fit into time constraints. Session times/answer periods may vary based upon number of candidates in the group and number of questions attempted. The moderator may grant additional time if a question is sufficiently interesting/complex and may ask additional people the same question. Moderator will attempt to give all equal time in total. Candidates may protest if they think they are being shortchanged. Moderator decision is final.

Audience will refrain from booing and other verbal or mechanical negative sentiments.

There may be a "post game analysis," consisting of a panel of pundits and maybe asking candidates and audience members their impressions directly after each debate.

Debate will be video-recorded and live streamed.

All candidates are asked to submit a candidate profile in advance for publication in the "Candidates Corner" section of CitizensJournal.us. Other media are welcome to use this, provided that editing does not change the meaning via wording changes or taking out of context in such a way as to distort the candidates' messages.

All questions received from public/candidates and team will be made public, candidates may answer them if they want. Answers will be made public on CitizensJournal.us. Any other media may take and use that material, as long as meaning/wording is not changed.

**Formulae for debate schedule development**, using 15 projected attendees, 1.5 min opening statements, 45 second (.75 minute) question responses for 10 questions and 2 minute closing arguments.

For each sub-debate- allocate time from overall debate window of 6 pm - 9 pm (3 hrs.=180 minutes), *proportionate to number of participants in each sub debate.*

*Estimated total time to be prorated into sub-debates:*

The event introduction will take 3 minutes.

We can have the candidates do own introductions in their opening statements.

Allow 1.5 minutes for candidate opening statements (15 x 1.5= 22.5 minutes)

Allow 30 seconds (.5 minutes) to ask each question x 10 questions x 4 groups= 20 minutes (could be more if some individual questions are posed, less if we reduce to 3 groups- 15 minutes).

Allow .75 minute max each response= 9 questions x 15 x .75= 101.25 minutes

Optional lightning round- 3 questions asked at .34 minutes= 2 minutes; plus 3 questions x 15 x .34 minutes= 15.3 minutes.

It would probably take about 5 minutes for one group to exit the ring after a debate and for the next group to be seated in place= 2 or 3 changes for 10 or 15 minutes.

Closing arguments- 15 debaters x 1.5 minutes= 22.5 minutes.

**TOTAL debate minutes projected- 189 minutes**

If we declared a 10 minute break after the second group, it would probably take another 15 minutes. Let's try to start a bit early.

Timekeeper to calculate milestones (for example, first debate should end by 6:45) and inform Moderator so that we will know if we are on time and take corrective actions if necessary, such as picking up the pace, shortening response time for easier questions, deleting questions, or even extending the event ending time, or breaking it up into two events.

"Rev1"- George Miller- 2-24-18 4:45 pm

