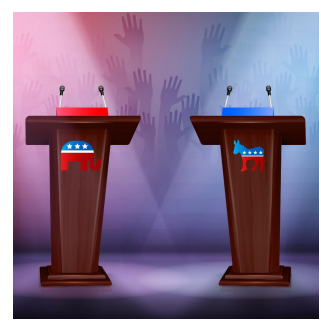


Before the Debate

The 2024 Election



Presidential Debates Background

In the 1950s, the price of televisions decreased, making this type of media more accessible. Nightly news became a mainstay on all the major networks at the time, such as ABC, NBC, and CBS. For the first time, Americans could see political candidates and politics playing out in real-time. Television became the focus for advertising and elections, but also for politicians to plead their cases. Televised debates and political ads were often used as ways to introduce candidates to the people. The expansion of social media in the 2000s has decreased the role of the press in the traditional sense. However, presidential elections since 1960 have continued to have televised debates.

The 2024 debate season began on June 27, 2024 and proved to be a pivotal moment in the election. During this debate, held on CNN, President Joe Biden (D) met former President Donald Trump (R). Biden's performance in this debate caused concern regarding his ability to serve another term. After widespread calls for him to step down, he ended his bid for reelection on July 21, 2024.

The next scheduled presidential debate, hosted by ABC, will be on September 10, 2024 between former President Trump and the new Democratic nominee, Vice President Kamala Harris. It is not yet clear if there will be more than one debate between these two presidential candidates. On October 1, 2024 a debate is scheduled between vice presidential nominees Ohio Senator J.D. Vance (R) and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz (D).

Before the Debate: Questions

What are two topics or issues that you hope to hear the candidates discuss during the debate?

ABC News has released [the rules](#) for the debate. What rules do you feel are important in a debate?

What matters most to you as a viewer: a candidate's speaking abilities/delivery, the substance of a candidate's answers, or the potential entertainment value? Explain.

Which candidate do you predict will perform the best when it comes to: speaking abilities/delivery; substance of answers; and entertainment value?