Statewide Debate Host for General Election Chosen by New York State Public Campaign Finance Board

Under the public campaign finance program, statewide candidates must agree to debate in order to receive public matching funds

ALBANY, N.Y. (8/12/2026) The New York State Public Campaign Finance Board (PCFB) is pleased to announce that the organization selected to host the 2026 statewide candidate debates for the General Election is **Spectrum News**. Pending final confirmation of qualification and participation, PCFB-sponsored debates for New York State Governor, Attorney General, and Comptroller will air on Spectrum News NY1 in the New York City area, and throughout New York State on Spectrum News 1 New York.

Spectrum News was chosen through a competitive selection process to produce and broadcast the debates, providing voters across New York with an opportunity to hear directly from candidates seeking statewide office ahead of the November 3rd General Election. The debates are a key component of the Public Campaign Finance Program's commitment to promoting an informed electorate and ensuring broad public access to meaningful candidate discussions.

“The Public Campaign Finance Program is committed to strengthening voter engagement and confidence in our democratic process,” said PCFB Co-Director Brian M. Keegan. "We are pleased to partner with Spectrum News to bring important conversations about current issues to communities across the state."

“Our goal is to ensure these debates are accessible, informative, and conducted with the highest standards of fairness and professionalism,” added PCFB Co-Director Carl P. Zeilman. “These debates will provide voters with an important opportunity to hear directly from the candidates, compare their visions for New York, and make informed decisions at the ballot box.”

"Spectrum News has a long history of hosting meaningful and substantive debates in New York, both in the five boroughs and around the state,” said Bob Hardt, Spectrum News’ New York State Political Director. “It’s part of our deep commitment to the electoral process and helping voters better understand the candidates and the issues shaping the future of our state."

Additional details regarding debate dates and formats will be announced by Spectrum News in the coming weeks. The debates will air on television and will be available to stream on the Spectrum News app, YouTube, and the NY1 and Spectrum News 1 New York websites.

For more information about the Public Campaign Finance Program, visit pcfb.ny.gov.

For more information about the upcoming General Election debates, please contact Christopher Chafin of Spectrum Networks at christopher.chafin@spectrum.com.

If you have any questions about this press release, please contact Kathleen McGrath or Jennifer Wilson at the New York State Board of Elections Public Information Office at 518-474-1953 or info@elections.ny.gov.

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