



**Georgia U.S. Senate Debate**  
*Format Proposal*

**DATE:** October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**TIME:** Debate live 7p – 8p eastern

**LOCATION:** TBD Theater, Savannah, Georgia

**QUALIFIED CANDIDATES:** Senator Raphael Warnock and Herschel Walker

**MEDIA PANEL:**

*Panelist*-Russ Spencer Fox 5 Atlanta

*Panelist*-Tina Tyus-Shaw WSAV Savannah

*Program Host*-Nexstar TBD-This position will not ask any questions directly to the candidates. The person will open and close the debate as well as introduce taped viewer/consortium journalist questions.

**Venue Details:**

A total of three representatives from each campaign will be permitted to join the candidate at the debate site and each campaign will be assigned a private room. The size and amenities will be similar for each room but unlikely to be an exact replica. To be fair, five days prior to the debate we will draw cards and video tape the process to randomly assign each space. We will send the video to each campaign. The rooms will all have the following available; wifi, table and chairs, monitor to watch debate, access to restrooms, and light snacks and drinks. A Nexstar staff member will be assigned to each campaign to be their immediate liaison to debate management. The designated campaign rooms will be cleaned and disinfected prior to arrival on debate night.

The debate will take place at a theater in Savannah with a live audience. An equal number of tickets will be distributed to each campaign. Twenty-five percent of the tickets allotted to the campaigns will be designated for VIP seating. We will secure the venue by August 15<sup>th</sup> or earlier. The candidates will stand at podiums in front of a neutral background facing the panelists and audience. Podium height and style will be provided to the campaigns one month ahead of the debate. Candidate audio is generated by two goose neck microphones attached to the podium. Two 82-inch monitors will flank the stage to provide the theater audience an additional program view of the program.

**Format Rules:**

- For planning purposes, Senator Warnock will be positioned screen left and Hershel Walker will be positioned screen right. A card draw, with the high card as the winner (ace is high), done one week ahead of time will determine which candidate receives the first question. The winner of the card draw will go second for closing statements.
  
- Timing of Answers

- o :60 to answer the primary question
  - o :30 to answer a follow up question or rebuttal
  - o :15 to provide any clarification at the discretion of the questioner
  - o All time will be kept by stopwatch in the production truck. The candidate will be reminded how much time they have to answer each question by the panelists. On the stage a large sign with :15 will be raised in the line of sight of the candidate to let them know time is running out.
  - o A bell will sound as soon as time is up. Candidates will be allowed to finish a thought they had already started if the bell sounds in mid-sentence.
  - o Candidates should expect follow-up questions from the questioner.
- Question Order
  - o One question will be specific to each candidate about a statement, issue, position, or news event related to that specific candidate's campaign. Rebuttals will not be allowed.
  - o The remaining questions will be similar to each candidate. Rebuttals will be allowed.
  - o The card draw winner will be asked the first question.
- Candidate attacked by another candidate
  - o In some cases, but not all, a candidate that was attacked by another candidate will be given :30 to rebut the attack. This time will be allotted at discretion of the questioner and debate producer. Simply stating the name of a candidate, without some other implied or direct claim, will not require a rebuttal. In all cases, our goal is to be fair to all candidates during the process when making the decision to allotting additional time.
- The questions will be generated from Georgia voters and Georgia Nexstar, WAGA Fox 5 and Sinclair journalists. We will use videotaped questions generated from viewers or Nexstar consortium journalists featuring ideas from regions throughout the state. All videotaped questions will be reviewed for relevance and decorum before being selected for the program.
- Candidates should expect some of the questions to be visually supported by graphics on the screen. The graphics will help the candidate and the voter better understand the question. Other questions may use video directly tied to an important Georgia issue to provide viewers a comprehensive understanding the premise of a question. A monitor in the studio will be situated in the candidates' line of sight to make sure they can process all the information.
- **Questioning Formats**
  - A. Question to Candidates
    - a. Panelist asks question and directs it to candidate A.
    - b. Candidate A has :60 to answer the question
    - c. Candidate A may be asked a follow up question, :30 to respond

d. Repeat

1. Topics will be provided to the campaigns prior to the broadcast, but specific questions will not.
  2. The candidates will be provided a blank notebook, pen, and water at their podium. The candidates will not be allowed to utilize notes, papers, or campaign materials while on the debate stage. No electronic or battery-operated devices will be allowed on the debate stage.
- B. Opening Statements will be 60 seconds.
- a. The candidate winning the card will go first for opening statements and will be asked the first question.
- C. Closing Statements will be 60 seconds.
- o The candidate winning the card draw will go second for closing statements.

**Logistics:**

1. All candidates are recommended to arrive by 6pm. Campaign staff attending the debate can begin to arrive by 4pm. We will need names of the staff members attending the program.
2. We will provide campaigns a time to walk through the stage on the day prior or the day of the debate. This will allow the campaign staff and/or the candidate a chance to walk the stage to review camera angles, lighting and to ask questions of Nexstar staff. The time for the walk-through will be coordinated one week prior to the debate.
3. Each candidate **MUST** be on stage 10 minutes prior to the start time of the debate. This will be strictly enforced **for the benefit of your candidate.** No staff or representatives will be allowed in the studio after the scheduled walk through. A Nexstar staff member will walk the candidate to stage at the appropriate time.

**Post-Debate Media Spin Room**

**October 14<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00 – 9:00p**

Nexstar will set up a room the candidates and/or staff can meet, mingle, and interview with other Georgia or National media upon the conclusion of the debate. The location and logistics for the spin room will be shared closer to the event date. We will keep a list of all attending media and share it with the campaigns. Nexstar owned national news outlets, NewsNation and The Hill, may request separate interviews of the candidates.

**Nexstar Contact**

