



**OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

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**NOTICE OF DEBATES TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

The Office of Campaign Finance (OCF) will conduct a Debate during the week of September 28, 2020 in the contested race for the office of At-Large Member of the Council, and potentially conduct a Debate for the contested race for the office of At-Large Member of the State Board of Education. These offices are scheduled for election during the November 3 General Election in the District of Columbia. All participating candidates certified in the Fair Elections Program (FEP) who are in contested city-wide elections must participate in the debates. Any candidate in the Traditional Campaign Finance Program (Traditional Program) who has qualified for ballot access will be invited to participate. Where there is no other FEP participating candidate or willing non-participating candidate, the mandatory debate requirement is waived.

As you may know, the Fair Elections Program was established in the Office of Campaign Finance to provide for publicly funded political campaigns. The FEP is voluntary and became fully funded in 2018. The Program is designed to provide matching and lump sum base amount payments to individuals registered and certified as participating candidates, in an election cycle, who agree to lower contribution limits and restrictions on the sources of contributions. The 2020 Election Cycle is the first election cycle under the FEP and the OCF is eager to share information with District Residents about the upcoming virtual debates the Agency plans to sponsor.

To date, in the November 3, 2020 General Election, there are a total of nine (9) certified participating candidates in the Fair Elections Program who are seeking the office of At-Large Member of the Council, and thirteen (13) registered candidates in the Traditional Program, and one (1) registered candidate, who may be certified in the FEP, and four (4) registered candidates in the Traditional Program who are seeking the office of At-Large Member of the State Board of Education.

The FEP participating candidates and non-participating candidates running in these citywide contested elections will receive a notice informing them of the registration process for the debates. The OCF will also inform and invite the public to participate in the debate process.

Information about the debates will be communicated to the public through various media formats, including digital media and public service announcements.

Please continue to check the OCF website for updated information concerning the details regarding the scheduled date, time, and registration process for the public to attend virtually and participate in the debates. In the interest of continuing to ensure the safety of our residents, during the public health emergency, the OCF sponsored debates will be conducted using a virtual platform.