



The Mission of the non-profit Utah Debate Commission is to produce substantive, independent, and nonpartisan debates of significance to the State of Utah. We seek to provide the highest quality of political discourse, expand civic education, foster public engagement, and maximize voter participation.

Critical Functions of the Utah Debate Commission:

1. Promotes Civic Engagement: Funding the Utah Debate Commission encourages informed civic participation by providing a platform for meaningful debates on crucial issues.
2. Enhances Democratic Processes: Supporting the commission contributes to an open and transparent democratic system, fostering healthy political discourse and understanding among constituents.
3. Ensures Fair Representation: By allocating funds to the Utah Debate Commission the State Legislature supports an impartial forum for candidates to present diverse perspectives to voters.
4. Educates the Electorate: The commission plays a vital role in educating voters, allowing them to make well-informed decisions by facilitating debates that delve into candidates' positions and policy proposals.
5. Strengthens Democracy's Foundation: Financial support for the Utah Debate Commission reinforces the foundational principles of democracy, promoting accountability, accessibility, and the exchange of ideas in the electoral process.



2024 Utah Federal and Statewide Elections

General election races_– 9 races

- Governor
- Attorney General
- State Auditor
- State Treasurer
- US Senate
- CD 1
- CD 2
- CD 3
- CD 4

Republican primary races_– 7 races

- Governor 5 R candidates
- Attorney General 4 R candidates
- State Auditor 2 R candidates
- US Senate 11 R candidates
- CD 1 3 R candidates
- CD 2 3 R candidates
- CD 3 10 R candidates

Democratic primary races – 3 races

- Attorney General 2 D candidates
- US Senate 3 D candidates
- CD 4 2 D candidates



Budget Assumptions

General Election Debates - \$26,000 per debate

- Held at universities across the state.
- More student engagement and exposure to a broader demographic.
- Higher costs due to mobile equipment, travel, and lodging costs.

Primary Election Debates - \$13,000 per debate

- Held in the studios of our media partners.
- Lower costs due to media partners donating their facilities and equipment.

University of Utah will fund the majority of the Presidential Debate.

Estimated 50% of debate costs to be contributed by private donors.

2024 Budget – Utah Debate Commission

Primary Debates	9 @ \$13,000	\$117,000
General Debates	8 @ \$26,000	208,000
Presidential Debate estimated 'partner' costs		75,000
Administrative, education, social media, website, etc.		90,000
Total		<u>\$490,000</u>



The Utah Debate Commission (UDC) is Utah's only nonpartisan and independent forum for public discussion among candidates for federal and statewide elected offices. Since 2014, the UDC has hosted over 40 statewide debates. These debates are broadcast live on Utah's major television stations, streamed live on social media platforms, and open to the public for in-person viewing – providing unparalleled access for candidates and education for Utahns. The UDC includes Utah's major universities as hosts of debates; this partnership provides a unique and elevated educational experience for students and builds a new generation's passion for lifelong civic engagement.

The UDC is governed by a Board of Directors that includes prominent business, civic, and community leaders, as well as:

Nine media organizations:

- BYU Broadcasting
- Deseret News
- FOX 13
- KSL
- KTVX
- KUTV
- PBS Utah
- Salt Lake Tribune
- Utah Assn. of Broadcasters

Eight Utah universities:

- Brigham Young University
- Salt Lake Community College
- Southern Utah University
- University of Utah
- Utah State University
- Utah Tech University
- Utah Valley University
- Weber State University

The UDC guarantees that there is at least one nonpartisan debate held for each federal and statewide office. Candidates from all Utah registered political parties have potential access to debate participation. Debates are rotated around the state at our eight universities – growing public exposure for candidates, highlighting regional issues, and ensuring that each candidate's message reaches all Utahns.

For more information, see [Utah Debate Commission](http://utahdebatecommission.org) at utahdebatecommission.org.