Welcome!

On December 14th, 1,000 parents, educators, students and education professionals will gather in Pittsburgh to ask questions of presidential candidates. This forum will be live streamed on MSNBC.com. Those who can’t attend are encouraged to organize watch parties.

The Pittsburgh forum will be historic. We have not, in recent times, had a presidential forum dedicated to issues related to public education. We are clear that public education can be a defining issue in next year’s election. Organizing a presidential debate watch party is just one way we can ensure maximum participation in this discussion. Thank you for hosting what’s an important part of our endorsement process!

Simple Steps for Hosting a Watch Party

1. Draft your text or email invite.
2. Email or text the invitations to your friends and colleagues.
3. At the party, have a discussion about what the candidates are saying.
4. Take pictures of your party and send them to us!
5. Participate by using #

Debate Watch Party Toolkit Q&A

Where should a debate watch party be held?
You can hold a debate watch party almost anywhere there is a TV—your home, community organization office, the local union office, a local pub or restaurant, or the veterans’ hall, for example.

What happens at a debate watch party?
We want you to have a great time at your party! This is a great opportunity to organize an event that could bring the members of your coalition together. This party could also strengthen relationships between parents, educators and students.

Who should come to a debate-watch party?
We want you to encourage other AFT members and their families to come to the party. Use fliers, leaflets and email to encourage people to attend. Ask each person you invite to bring along another AFT member. Use your building representatives or stewards to distribute the fliers to members.

How do I get information on the candidates’ positions on our issues?
Additional information that highlights the candidates’ positions on issues important to our members is available on AFTvotes.org.
LOGISTICS

The forum will take place on December 14th.
The event will stream live on MSNBC.COM
Start time is 10am.

Watch Party Toolkit Tips & Checklist

☐ Have plenty of food and drink on hand.

☐ Make it a family-friendly event, if possible. Having activities for the kids will bring out more people

☐ Facilitate a discussion around the issues important to parents, students and education professionals then listen to see if those issues are discussed during the debate.

☐ If you are a local AROS coalition member, have information about your local work, the next meeting or event.

☐ Tweet pictures from your party to us.

Questions for Discussion

Here are some questions that might spur discussion at your party:

• How prominent are the issues of education, labor and higher education in what the candidates are saying?
• Have the candidates shown they have plans to address the issue of healthcare?
• If you could pose one question to each candidate, what would it be?
• What is the most important thing a candidate said that stuck with you?
• What surprised you most about any of the candidates?
• What was said about community schools?
• If the elections were tomorrow, who would you vote for?