



**DEBATE AGREEMENT**  
Candidates for  
**PA Senate 22<sup>nd</sup> Special Election**

**Cosponsored by the League of Women Voters of Lackawanna County, the Center for Ethics and Excellence in Public Service at The University of Scranton, the Political Science Department at The University of Scranton, and Toyota of Scranton**

**DATE and TIME: Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> , 2021**

**10:00-11:00 PA Senate 22<sup>nd</sup> Special Election**

Candidates should please arrive 15 minutes prior to the debate. This will be a no-audience debate due to COVID. Please do not bring anybody with you. Please wear COVID mask to enter the building. You may remove the mask once seated at safe distance at the start of the debate.

**Location:**

**University of Scranton. We will inform you of the location soon.**

**FORMAT:**

- Candidates will be seated, in alphabetical order, from left to right. Candidates will be spaced a distance from other persons to protect their safety and respect their comfort level and caution sensibilities.
- The moderator will stand to the side. There will also be a timer, a videographer and a one-two LWVLC volunteers in the room. There may be one or two members of the press present.
- Questions will be developed in advance by the League of Women Voters of Lackawanna County (LWVLC). Candidates will not have previous knowledge of the questions. Each candidate will be asked the same set of questions.
- The moderator will be chosen by LWVLC. The moderator will ask all questions.
- The debate will be approximately 60 minutes in length.
- The moderator will open the debate with an explanation of the format and rules.
- The moderator will introduce each candidate with brief biographical information drawn from current public sources. You are welcome to email biographical information to us, provided we receive it no fewer than seven days prior to the debate.
- The moderator will close the debate.
- The candidate selected to provide the first answer to the first question will be chosen prior to the debate by a draw. The person selected to give the first closing statement will also be chosen prior to the debate by a draw. Subsequent respondents will proceed in alphabetical order, as seated.
- After each question, the moderator will give candidates equal time to respond. Candidates will be required to adhere to the time limit.
- There will be no opening statements. Each candidate will be allowed two minutes for a closing statement.
- At the discretion of the moderator, candidates may be allowed an equal number of one-minute rebuttals.

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**AUDIO/VISUAL POLICY:** The League of Women Voters does not endorse candidates. LWVLC supports the full and fair discussion of issues as a service to voters. In order to preserve the originality and integrity of video and/or audio media created during the course of LWVLC educational events, including candidate debates, it is the policy of the LWVLC that media coverage of LWVLC events not be manipulated or edited to create false or misleading impressions, to promote one candidate or oppose another, or in any way to imply LWVLC endorsement of a candidate.

- Unauthorized audio/video recording/streaming is not allowed.
- Media coverage requires the approval of LWVLC. An audio or video must be broadcast in its entirety except by legitimate media reporting on events.
- No part of any authorized or unauthorized recording of this debate may be used or distributed by any person, candidate, campaign, or political group for any purpose whatsoever.
- The debate will be taped for recorded broadcast on ECTV, posted on YouTube, linked on [www.lwvlackawanna.org](http://www.lwvlackawanna.org), and shared via FaceBook. The public will be made aware of the existence of the recording, via the press. A candidate's webpage may provide a link to the ECTV or LWVLC webpage's video.

**CANDIDATE RULES:**

- The use of cell phones, mobile devices, or other electronic equipment by the candidates during the debate is strictly prohibited.
- Candidates may not use props for display to the camera, e.g., charts, briefing books, notebooks, or visual aids of any kind.
- Candidates may refer to personal paper notes during the debate.
- Candidate acknowledges that the League of Women Voters does not conduct "empty-chair" debates. If there are not at least two candidates, the debate must be cancelled.

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Please respond to this invitation by <sup>18</sup>April 16, 2021 with your signature indicating agreement, below.

- You may complete the form, scan, and email it to the sender of this communication.
- You may complete the form, scan, and email it to [lwvlackawanna@gmail.com](mailto:lwvlackawanna@gmail.com).
- You may mail the form to LWV Lackawanna County, P.O. Box 43, Scranton, PA 18501.
- You may bring the signed form with you to the debate, provided you have communicated to us by April 10, 2021 of your intention to participate. If you arrive without the signed form, one will be presented to you for your signature.

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This agreement, pages one and two, is accepted by:

PRINT OR TYPE CANDIDATE NAME: Nathan Covington Date signed 4/23/21

CANDIDATE SIGNATURE (sign or affix image): 

Email address: natecovington@pustonmail.com; (Cell phone – reachable the day of the debate): 570-576-7497