August 5, 2020

The Commission on Presidential Debates
Attn: Co-Chairs Frank Fahrenkopf, Jr., Dorothy S. Ridings, Kenneth Wollack;
Executive Director Janet H. Brown
P.O. Box 58247
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Rudolph W. Giuliani
Former Mayor, New York
Donald J. Trump for President, Inc.
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Dear Members of the Commission:

Now that former Vice President Joe Biden has finally announced he will be joining President Donald J. Trump for the Commission’s scheduled general election debates, our campaign again requests the Commission modernize its line-up to include an additional, earlier debate in September, bringing the total number of presidential debates to four.

If the Commission refuses to add a fourth presidential debate to the three agreed-upon debates, we strongly urge the Commission to move up the final debate (currently scheduled for October 22, 2020) to instead happen during the first week in September.

Here’s why:

By the time of the first presidential debate on September 29, 2020, at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, as many as eight million Americans in 16 states will have already started voting.

By the time of the vice presidential debate on October 7, 2020, at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Utah, as many as 20 million Americans in 24 states will have already started voting.

By the time of the second presidential debate on October 15, 2020, at the Adrienne Arsht Center in Miami, Florida, as many as 35 million Americans in 29 states will have already started voting.
And by the time of the third and final presidential debate on October 22, 2020, at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee, as many as 49 million Americans in 34 states will have already started voting.

Simply put, the Commission’s current approach is an outdated dinosaur and not reflective of voting realities in 2020.

For a nation already deprived of a traditional campaign schedule because of the COVID-19 global pandemic, it makes no sense to also deprive so many Americans of the opportunity to see and hear the two competing visions for our country’s future before millions of votes have been cast.

The solution is easy: add an additional debate in early September before the first ballots are sent out in North Carolina on September 4, 2020, or, move up the final debate currently scheduled for October 22, 2020 into the first week in September.

Certainly former Vice President Biden would agree with the need to avoid having millions of Americans disenfranchised by not being able to see and hear the two major party candidates debate before they have ballots in-hand, and our suggestions for location and moderators shows a spirit of cooperation the Commission should be able to agree to.

Additionally, now that former Vice President Biden has finally confirmed he is indeed available to leave his basement for the fall debates, we are also requesting the Commission solidify its backup plans for debate locations and logistics in the event additional COVID-19 complications arise at any of the locations. A simple studio format with no audience should be established as an emergency back-up plan for all currently scheduled presidential and vice presidential debates, and this should be done soon.

Finally, we would like to suggest the following journalist names for consideration as moderators, and we would appreciate your prompt reply on this matter.

Bret Baier
Gerry Baker
Maria Bartiromo
Shannon Bream
David Brody
Rachel Campos-Duffy
Kevin Cirilli
Larry Elder
Saagar Enjeti
Harris Faulkner
Major Garrett
Michael Goodwin
Ambrosio Hernandez
Joe Kernen
Hoda Kotb
Susan Li
Bill Hemmer
Hugh Hewitt
Tom Llamas
Dagen McDowell
David Muir
Norah O’Donnell
Charles Payne
Rick Santelli

Sincerely,

Rudolph W. Giuliani
Former Mayor, New York