



**NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE  
PHIL BERGER

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
TIM MOORE

RALEIGH, NC 27601

Commission on Presidential Debates  
1200 New Hampshire Ave. NW Suite 445  
Washington, DC 20036

Friday, August 7, 2020

Dear Members of the Commission,

In order to preserve fairness and transparency in this year's presidential election, we write to request that an additional, earlier debate be held in our home state of North Carolina this September. North Carolinians will be the first voters casting a ballot for the presidential election and it is imperative that we hear from both candidates.

Presidential debates are a critical part of the electoral process. Unlike television ads or pre-written speeches, debates give Americans a firsthand look at each candidate's own policies and intellect in an unscripted setting. They allow voters to hear the candidates' platforms firsthand and give candidates the opportunity to respond to the tough questions.

Unfortunately, by the time the first presidential debate happens on September 29, 2020, voters in North Carolina will have already started voting. North Carolinians who vote early deserve the same opportunity afforded to other states to hear the two competing visions for our country and make a well-informed decision when casting their vote.

We must give voters a fair chance in an already unprecedented election, and we ask that you consider adding an additional, earlier debate in North Carolina, this September. This monumental election will determine the very future of our nation. The least we can do is equip voters with facts to aid them in electing the President of the United States.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Phil Berger, written in a cursive style.

Phil Berger  
President Pro Tempore  
North Carolina Senate

A blue ink signature of Tim Moore, written in a cursive style.

Tim Moore  
Speaker  
North Carolina House of Representatives