

Hughes Center and Partners to Sponsor Series of Candidate Debates

Media Advisory: Coverage invited

September 22, 2021

Galloway, N.J. - The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy and the Atlantic County League of Women Voters will sponsor a debate among Atlantic County Commission candidates at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 23 in the Campus Center Theatre on the Stockton University Galloway campus. It is the first of four scheduled debates among area candidates in the November election.

The debate will be held in person and members of the public are invited to attend on a first-come, first-served basis with limited seating. The debate will also be livestreamed over the Internet live and archived on the Hughes Center's website at www.stockton.edu/hughescenter. It will also be streamed live by The Press of Atlantic City at pressofatlanticcity.com/ and broadcast on WOND radio.

Attendees must comply with Stockton University COVID-19 regulations requiring masks be worn at all times indoors. Visitors must also complete an online health pledge on Thursday. Attendees must bring the printed email confirming they took the pledge, have it on their cellphone for viewing, or retake the pledge on-site. The health pledge is online at <https://go.stockton.edu/public/visitor/form>.

All participating commission candidates will be onstage and participate in the one debate. The participants include candidates for at-large commissioner (Frank X. Balles (R) and Celeste Fernandez (D)), District 2 commissioner (Jelani Gandy (D) and Maureen Kern (R)), and District 3 commissioner (Andrew Parker (R) and Thelma Witherspoon (D)). The debate will be moderated by Michael Richter of the League of Women Voters of Camden County.

There will not be a District 5 commissioner debate.

Here are the dates, locations and partners of the other scheduled debates:

- Oct. 6, 6 p.m.: Legislative District 2 State Senate, followed at 7 p.m. by District 2 State Assembly; Fannie Lou Hamer Room, the John F. Scarpa Academic Center, Atlantic City campus, sponsored by the Hughes Center and The Press of Atlantic City.

- Oct. 19, 7 p.m.: Atlantic City mayor; Fannie Lou Hamer Room, the John F. Scarpa Academic Center, Atlantic City campus, sponsored by the Hughes Center and The Press of Atlantic City.
- Oct. 20, 7 p.m.: Atlantic County clerk, Meeting Room 5, Campus Center, Galloway campus, sponsored by the Hughes Center and Atlantic County League of Women Voters. The public will not be allowed to attend this debate because of space limitations.

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Stockton University

Stockton University, which is celebrating its 50th year of teaching in 2021-22, is [ranked](#) among the top public universities in the Northeast. Our almost 10,000 students can choose to live and learn on the 1600-acre wooded main campus in the Pinelands National Reserve in South Jersey and at our coastal residential campus just steps from the beach and Boardwalk in Atlantic City. The university offers more than 160 undergraduate and graduate programs. Learn more at Stockton.edu.