

2020 PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES: STATION HOPE [UPDATE-1]

[NB: Update at bottom of post. /~Rayne]

I'm putting up a post so community members can hash out the first of three presidential debates.

This one is located in Cleveland, Ohio, which was code named "Station Hope" by the Underground Railroad during the mid-1800s.

The entire day has been rife with bullshit rumormongering among the right-wing monkey horde, which claims Democratic candidate and former VP Joe Biden will use an earpiece for prompts by others as well as performance enhancing drugs.

New from me: How "Biden's earpiece" went from Facebook conspiracy theory to mainstream news

Viral tweets/YouTube vids → coordinated Facebook meme drop → Fox News report → QAnon drop → NY Post's anonymous source → Trump campaign text → your newsfeed
<https://t.co/jyCIa0Ks1v>

– Ben Collins (@oneunderscore__)
September 29, 2020

Sure sounds like a lot of projection to me.

Trump's campaign has already jumped the gun and sent out a fundraising email before 5:37 p.m. EDT claiming he's won the debate which doesn't start until 8:00 p.m. CDT (I'm writing this at 8:00 p.m. EDT).

Donald Trump emailed his entire list that he won the debate. Before the debate. pic.twitter.com/pcpCCirP3t

– The Lincoln Project (@ProjectLincoln)
September 29, 2020

Joe and his team are taking this all in stride.

It's debate night, so I've got my
earpiece and performance enhancers
ready. pic.twitter.com/Eh0iWdjh1b

– Joe Biden (@JoeBiden) September 29,
2020

Do open the graphic. The right-wing horde has gotten their panties in a twist about \$12-13/pint ice cream, failing to take the time to check its provenance. It's made by a woman-founded ice creamery headquartered in Columbus with a scoop shop in Chagrin, Ohio just east of Cleveland, with pints available in many Cleveland-area grocery stores.

Way to go, MAGAts. Good luck winning over more women and small businesses.

Anyhow...a list of online streams is available at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLU12uITxBEPFAvcR0sHJwIopn-Q-FMTSp>

Fox is hosting which is a joke given their role in spreading disinformation today about Biden.

CNN's Daniel Dale will be doing a real time fact check which Fox is apparently incapable of doing. Best wishes to Dale who will surely be exhausted at the end of the debate; he's the best Canadian import we have next to Molson.

Best of luck to you all. I will check in later; I simply don't have the patience for Trump's lies while the U.S. has now lost 205,591 Americans as of this evening to COVID-19 because Trump's such a useless fraud.

~ ~ ~

EDIT: Mark these dates on your calendar for the next two presidential debates –

Thursday, **October 15, 2020** 9:00–10:30 p.m. ET
Location: Adrienne Arsht Center for the
Performing Arts, Miami, Florida
Moderator: Steve Scully, C-SPAN

Thursday, **October 22, 2020** 8:00–9:30 p.m. ET
Location: Curb Event Center at Belmont
University, Nashville, Tennessee
Moderator: Kristen Welker, NBC

~ ~ ~

UPDATE-1 – 11:45 P.M. ET –

Jumpin' Jehosaphat, what a spectacular waste of time and a massive national embarrassment. Trump has all the manners and grace of a toddler who's missed his lunch and his nap, and yet he has all the maliciousness of an old man with permanent grudges.

Van Jones, who has been on board with Trump, may have had the scales removed from his eyes tonight:

Only three things happened tonight:

1. **#DonaldTrump** refused to condemn white supremacy.
2. The **#POTUS** refused to condemn white supremacy.
3. The **#CommanderInChief** REFUSED to condemn white supremacy on the GLOBAL STAGE.

NOW LOOK AT WHAT IS HAPPENING ONLINE.
THIS IS NOT OKAY.

pic.twitter.com/0hANFUYqNS

– Van Jones (@VanJones68) September 30,
2020

I don't know what took Jones so damned long to realize that Trump is a white supremacist who intends to keep his grip on power illegitimately and with the support of white supremacist terror groups.

The media isn't taking this debate well, either.

Many of them realize that Trump couldn't be reined in even if Fox's Chris Wallace had tried harder because Trump was intent on venting his meanness. Any one of them in Wallace's shoes would have had difficulty salvaging any of the debate because Trump has no respect for the media if they aren't kissing his ass.

Joan Donovan of the Shorenstein Center has an important message for the media, though:

Journalists!

Please please please do not try to interview the Proud Boys. They seek media attention and then use it to spread their toxic message.

When reporting on tonight's debate, call them white supremacists. But do not give them a mic. <https://t.co/yg5cvDillH>

– Joan Donovan, PhD (@BostonJoan)
September 30, 2020

Don't give white supremacists a platform. Doing so lends them legitimacy. It's bad enough Trump had one tonight which he used to ask them to stand by – in essence, calling to armed preparedness a seditious entity.

It's past time to discuss both the illegitimacy of Trump's power and the threat of seditious insurrection if he loses to Biden in an effort to prevent the peaceful transition of power.

Two more debates seem useless at this point, don't they?