

2020 PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES: MISSING 'THE CAPITAL OF LATIN AMERICA' [UPDATE-1]

[NB: Updates will appear at the bottom of this post. /~Rayne]

I pre-wrote posts for the presidential debates, scheduling them to post a half hour before the event began. Here's the post I wrote about the now-canceled second debate, on which Trump and his team flip-flopped about his participation.

Here's a post so emptywheel community members can discuss the second of three presidential debates.

Tonight's second presidential debate scheduled for 9:00–10:30 p.m. ET . Tonight's moderator will be Steve Scully of C-SPAN.

The debate – changed to a remote format after Trump's hospitalization for COVID-19 – was to be held at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts in Miami, Florida. Moving to a remote or virtual debate model removes a key topic of discussion though it's best for the safety of the candidates.

Miami has two nicknames: the Gateway to the the Americas, and the Capital of Latin America. I wonder how closely Central and South America will be watching the debate because the original location lent itself to discussion of foreign policy in the Americas.

Good luck to Steve Scully on keeping the tangerine hellbeast from running amok as he did during the first debate.

Of course we now know that roughly 26-28 hours

after Trump's participation in the first presidential debate, Trump tweeted that he and his current spouse tested positive for COVID-19.

This is Day 14 after that announcement, and still an unknown number of days since Trump's positive test was administered. We don't know how long the gap was between the time the test was administered and when he announced he was positive, let alone if more than one test was taken or the kinds of tests used.

It's also an unknown number of days since his last negative test because Trump and his minions have steadfastly refused to answer this question. We've seen reports indicating Trump was not tested regularly.

We still don't have any indication who infected him or when. We know Hope Hicks, whose positive test was announced on October 1, traveled with Trump on Friday September 25. RNC's chair Ronna Romney McDaniel was also with Trump inside the 24 hours before the "Rose Garden Massacre" super spreader event.

An unknown number of people including senators and GOP political figures were infected at that event; as of this past Monday we could account for 34 but there have surely been more who either didn't tell anyone for various reasons including Trump's goddamned NDAs, or fear, or asymptomatic status.

We're no closer to knowing how the super spreader event began.

Trump ultimately canceled this second presidential debate because of his COVID-positive status seven days before this debate, unwilling as he was to participate on a virtual basis.

But just because he canceled doesn't mean we the people don't have questions for the candidates.

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Make sure to add the date of the third and final presidential debate to your calendar – format

and location subject to change, of course, if not outright cancellation:

Thursday, **October 22, 2020** 8:00–9:30 p.m.
ET

Location: Curb Event Center at Belmont
University, Nashville, Tennessee
Moderator: Kristen Welker, NBC

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UPDATE-1 – 8:30 P.M. 15-OCT-2020 –

I left this post unchanged while the situation gelled into this evening's dueling town halls, with Biden on ABC and Trump on NBC.

Since Trump's appearance on NBC was announced, there's been a shit storm of outrage across social media platforms. Trump refused to debate on a remote basis, but he's willing to appear on a network this evening at the same time as Biden?

Fuck that.

Many young people are tuning into ABC on multiple devices and streams to watch Biden's town hall in order to boost his viewership ratings, knowing of course that Trump is hung up on audience numbers.

After the way in which K-pop fans skewed the reservation numbers for Trump's Tulsa OK rally back in June, it'll be interesting to see what youngsters can do this time against a forewarned Team Trump.

Not putting up Trump's crap here tonight, especially after his rally appearance today in which he implied he authorized the extrajudicial execution of an anti-fascist protester.