CT CONFERENCE OF INDEPENDENT COLLEGES ANNOUNCES
IT WILL HOST A REPUBLICAN GUBERNATORIAL PRIMARY DEBATE ON AUG. 6

NBC Connecticut signs on as media partner along with the CT Mirror and CT Public Radio;
Debates to be hosted by John Dankosky of the New England News Collaborative with
panelists Mark Pazniokas of the CT Mirror, Vanessa de la Torre of Connecticut Public Radio
and Max Reiss of NBC Connecticut

HARTFORD, Conn. (July 25, 2018) -- The [Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges](#) (CCIC) today announced it will host a Republican gubernatorial primary debate on August 6th at 7:00 PM at Fairfield University. Candidates that have confirmed their participation include: Mark Boughton, Tim Herbst, Steve Obsitnik and David Stemerman. Invitations to this debate were extended to all the candidates who will appear on the August 14 primary ballot.

CCIC also announced 3 media partners for the debate – NBC Connecticut, the CT Mirror, and Connecticut Public Radio – and said the debate will be moderated by John Dankosky, with 3 panelists asking questions: Max Reiss from NBC Connecticut, Mark Pazniokas from the CT Mirror, and Vanessa De La Torre from Connecticut Public Radio. Each of these media outlets will be broadcasting the events across their various media channels.

The subject of the debate will be the future of Connecticut's economy

While CCIC had a Democratic candidate debate scheduled for August 7th, the event had to be canceled because Ned Lamont was not able to participate.

"John, Mark, Vanessa and Max bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to this debate from their many years of covering Connecticut politics," said CCIC President Jennifer Widness. "We are looking forward to watching them lead the Republican candidates for Governor in an in-depth discussion of Connecticut's economic future and their respective visions for the state."

"Given the date on which this debate will occur – just 8 days before the Aug. 14th primary -- and given who is moderating and asking the questions, we anticipate a substantive exchange that will allow voters one final take from the candidates before the primary," Widness continued. "CCIC and our media partners are all disappointed that the Democratic candidate forum could not go forward despite our best efforts to make it work. CCIC is a non-partisan organization committed to educating policymakers and the public – from all parties – about the critical role of the independent colleges in Connecticut,"

"Promoting public dialogue and giving voters information they need to engage in democracy are at the heart of The Connecticut Mirror's journalism," according to CT Mirror publisher Bruce Putterman. "We are pleased to team up with CCIC, Connecticut Public Radio and NBC Connecticut to ask candidates the important questions that are on the minds of Connecticut's voters."

"The public looks to journalists to ask tough questions of those who are seeking public office," said John Dankosky of the New England News Collaborative. "That's why I'm happy to be working with three of the best journalists in the state to get answers. Real information about candidates' positions can be hard to come by, and these debates will help us get more information to the people casting their votes in August."

About CCIC: Founded in 1932, the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges (CCIC) is an association that represents 15 accredited nonprofit independent colleges and universities in Connecticut. CCIC provides public policy leadership and support of higher education, fosters cooperative efforts among colleges and universities and serves as a liaison between the state and the independent institutions. Visit CCIC at www.theccic.org.

About Connecticut Mirror: The Connecticut Mirror is a nonprofit, non-partisan, independent online publisher of news, opinion, and data covering public policy, government, and politics in Connecticut. Its mission is to inform and engage state residents so they can more effectively participate in the development of public policy, hold public officials accountable for understanding and addressing the state's needs, promote policy-making transparency, and strengthen our democracy. The Connecticut Mirror publishes daily news and in-depth stories at www.ctmirror.org covering the state budget / finance, legislation, high impact policy, politics, education, health care, urban / regional issues, and the environment.

About Connecticut Public: Connecticut Public is the state's only locally-owned media organization producing television, radio, print, and web content for Connecticut's wide-ranging and diverse communities. It is home to Connecticut Public Television, Connecticut Public Radio, and Connecticut Public Learning. Connecticut Public Television is an affiliate of PBS and is a locally and nationally recognized producer and presenter of quality public television programming. Connecticut Public Radio on WNPR is an affiliate of National Public Radio, Public Radio International, and American Public Media. Connecticut Public Learning serves high school seniors through a partnership with Hartford Public Schools and the Journalism and Media Academy Magnet School. It is also home to the Institute for Advanced Media, a program that provides veterans and adult learners an opportunity to learn valuable digital media skills. For more information, visit ctpublic.org; wnpr.org; cptv.org and ctlearninglab.org.

About NBC Connecticut: Owned by NBCUniversal, NBC Connecticut / WVIT serves its audience with local news and weather information across multiple platforms, including more than 40 hours of newscasts each week on WVIT and online at NBCConnecticut.com. The station is Connecticut's leader with Facebook and Instagram followers and provides mobile users on-the-go breaking news updates and weather information through the NBC CT App. NBC Connecticut's commitment to excellence in journalism has been recognized with numerous Emmy Awards, and the prestigious Peabody Award and Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award.

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