



For Immediate Release  
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**CT CONFERENCE OF INDEPENDENT COLLEGES JOINS FOX 61, CONNECTICUT PUBLIC RADIO AND THE CT MIRROR TO HOST AND BROADCAST FIRST GUBERNATORIAL DEBATE OF THE 2018 GENERAL ELECTION**

*Debate to be broadcast live from 6:00 to 7:00 PM from the University of Saint Joseph on Fox 61 and Connecticut Public Radio on Wednesday September 5<sup>th</sup>, hosted by Amanda Raus of FOX61 and moderated by John Dankosky of the New England News Collaborative. Raus, Aisha Mbowe of Fox 61 and Mark Pazniokas from the CT Mirror to serve as panelists.*

**HARTFORD, Conn. (August 16, 2018)** -- The [Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges](#) (CCIC) today announced that it will host the first gubernatorial debate of the Connecticut general election on September 5, 2018 from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. The debate will be held at the University of Saint Joseph's Hoffman Auditorium at the Bruyette Athenaeum, 1678 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford CT, and will be broadcast live by Fox 61 and Connecticut Public Radio from 6:00 to 7:00 PM.

The CCIC sponsored event will be hosted by FOX61's [Amanda Raus](#) and will be moderated by [John Dankosky](#) of the New England News Collaborative. The debate panelists will be Raus, [Mark Pazniokas](#) of the CT Mirror and [Aisha Mbowe](#) from FOX61. The subject of the debate will be the future of Connecticut's economy.

"We are very excited to be bringing this live gubernatorial debate to the Connecticut voting public with our partners at FOX61, NPR and the CT Mirror," said CCIC President Jennifer Widness. "Now that the primaries are over, it's important for voters to hear how the candidates will address the state's economic challenges and the critical role that higher education can play in that future."

"Fox 61 is proud to broadcast the first gubernatorial debate of the 2018 General Election," said Jon Hitchcock, Vice President and General Manager of Fox 61. "This is a critical moment in Connecticut's history, and carrying the debate on all of our platforms is another example of Fox 61 serving our statewide audience with important news and informative programming."

"At a time when our state faces extremely complex challenges, debates are an important forum where citizens can understand the candidates' positions, unscripted and in real time. I am looking forward to moderating a spirited and enlightening debate that helps people make informed choices as they think about the future of our state," said John Dankosky, of Connecticut Public Radio.

“Gubernatorial debates are critical for educating voters about the candidates who hope to lead our state,” noted CT Mirror publisher Bruce Putterman. “Given our mission of informing and educating Connecticut residents about public policy, we are pleased to team up with CCIC, Connecticut Public Radio and FOX61 to ask candidates the important questions that are on the minds of Connecticut’s voters.”

“How thrilling it is that we are discussing the Connecticut economy on a college campus,” said Rhona Free, Ph.D., president of the University of Saint Joseph. “As one of the state’s 15 independent colleges, USJ plays a critical role in preparing the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce that Connecticut will need to compete and succeed. Whoever wins the 2018 race for governor, you can count on us to be your enthusiastic partner.”

**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](http://www.theccic.org).

**About University of Saint Joseph:** The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of coeducational undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with opportunities for mentored research, community service, clinical field work, and internships. Programs are taught on the University’s two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford, Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph offers degrees with value and values. To learn more, view our website at [www.usj.edu](http://www.usj.edu).

**About FOX61:** FOX 61 is one of the nation's most highly rated FOX Network affiliates providing the people of Connecticut with outstanding entertainment, news, sports and local event programming on air and online at [fox61.com](http://fox61.com). FOX 61 News produces more than 61 hours of local news and public affairs programming each week, more than any other station in Connecticut. FOX 61 and its sister station, CW 20 are owned and operated by Tribune Media, one of the country’s leading multimedia companies. Please visit [fox61.com](http://fox61.com).

**About Connecticut Public:** [Connecticut Public](http://ConnecticutPublic.org) 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](http://ctpublic.org); [wnpr.org](http://wnpr.org); [cptv.org](http://cptv.org) and [ctlearninglab.org](http://ctlearninglab.org).

**About Connecticut Mirror:** The [Connecticut Mirror](http://www.ctmirror.org) 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](http://www.ctmirror.org) covering the state budget / finance, legislation, high impact policy, politics, education, health care, urban / regional issues, and the environment.

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