

Sons of the Beach — Official Debate Rules

1. Purpose

- a) This event is a true debate, not a candidate forum.
- b) The goal is to give the community a clear comparison of candidates' ideas, policies, and leadership.
- c) The debate is conducted as a public service to voters.

2. Nonpartisan Format

- a) Sons of the Beach hosts the debate as a neutral community organization.
- b) All candidates are treated equally and given identical opportunities to speak.

3. Moderator Authority

- a) A neutral moderator selected by Sons of the Beach will conduct the debate.
- b) The moderator enforces rules, manages time, and maintains order.
- c) The moderator's decisions are final.

4. Speaking Order

- a) Speaking order will be determined by a coin toss before the debate.
- b) Candidates will alternate answering first throughout the event.

5. Debate Structure

- a) Opening Statements: 5 minutes per candidate with a 1 minute allowance to finish the candidate's statement.
 - i. Question Responses:

1. 2 minutes to answer per question with a 15 second buffer.
 2. 1 minute rebuttal by the opponent per question.
 3. 30-second follow-up (if permitted by moderator)
- b) Closing Statements: 3 minutes per candidate (reverse order of openings).

6. Candidate Interaction

- a) Candidates may challenge each other's positions respectfully.
- b) Remarks must address issues and policies, not personal character.
- c) Candidates must speak through the moderator and remain on topic.

7. Time Limits

- a) Strict time limits will be enforced.
- b) Candidates exceeding their time may be stopped or microphones muted after a warning.
- c) The moderator has the authority to limit the topics to keep within a 90 minute time frame.

8. Audience Participation

- a) Audience members must remain respectful.
- b) No interruptions, demonstrations, or disruptions.
- c) Questions may be submitted prior to the debate to The Sons of the Beach [**SOBVolusia@gmail.com**](mailto:SOBVolusia@gmail.com)

9. Materials

- a) Candidates may bring written notes.
- b) No electronic communication or outside assistance during the debate.

10. Agreement to Rules

- a) Participation in the debate requires acceptance of all Sons of the Beach debate rules.

Candidate 1 _____

Candidate 2 _____

Moderator _____

Date _____