



**Kansas Republican Party Debate Program
Kansas 2026 Gubernatorial Race
Agreement of The Kansas Republican Party and Candidates**

Whereas, the Kansas Republican Party desires to fulfill its mission to its party members, the approximately 900,000 registered Kansas Republican voters, to promote and eventually elevate the most electable candidate from the Republican primary to the Kansas general election for the office of Kansas Governor 2026; and

Whereas, the Republican candidates seeking the office of Kansas Governor seek to have the support of the Kansas Republican Party and desire a uniform and fair approach to engaging in debates to assist Kansas Republicans in selecting the Party's nominee.

Wherefore, the candidates seeking the nomination to be the Kansas Republican Party candidate in the November 2026 election for Kansas Governor hereby pledge and mutually agree as follows:

1. The Kansas Republican Party will be the facilitator between the candidates and the organizations who wish to host a debate. The Kansas Republican Party will consult with each candidate that is qualified to participate in the officially sanctioned debates and who are signatories to this Agreement to come to the most convenient dates, venue and debate rules. The Kansas Republican Party will have the sole right to make the final determination of the terms of the officially sanctioned debates but only after having consulted with all parties to this Agreement for their input.
2. For purposes of this Agreement, a "debate" is any event hosted by media or a group outside of the official Republican Party in which 30 percent or more declared candidates present, rebut positions and answer questions for greater than twenty minutes. An event where candidates simply give speeches in successive order without taking questions from the audience and without engaging in any discussion or dialogue with one another does not constitute a debate.
3. The Kansas Republican Party will not sanction an event unless the hosting group partners with media or an outside organization which is approved by the Kansas Republican Party.

4. In order for a candidate to be considered for participation by the Kansas Republican Party in an officially sanctioned debate, the candidate must:
 - a. Must be filed as a Republican candidate for the Office of Kansas Governor with the Kansas Secretary of State before January 29, 2026; and
 - b. Be a signatory to this Agreement; and
 - c. A registered voter in the State of Kansas who voted in the last Gubernatorial General election in 2022; and
 - d. Agree to participate in a unity event hosted by the Kansas Republican Party the week following the primary; and
 - e. Agree to support the eventual Republican nominee for the Office of Kansas Governor; and
 - f. Contribute \$10,000 to the Kansas Republican Party on behalf of themselves, their candidate committee, or a third party; and
 - g. Meet one of the following four conditions as reported on the January 10, 2026 campaign finance report:
 - i. \$500,000 cash on hand; or
 - ii. \$250,000 cash on hand with at least \$1,000 from 80 different Kansas counties; or
 - iii. \$250,000 cash on hand with 800 individual donations of \$100 or more from 800 individual Kansas voters; or
 - iv. \$250,000 cash on hand with no more than 50% raised from any congressional district or less than 10% from any congressional district
5. The Kansas Republican Party reserves the right to impose appropriate requirements in order to make the debates more useful to the Party members but at a minimum, the following preliminary rules will be applied to all debates:
 - a. No surrogates will be permitted. The officially registered candidate must personally appear and participate in the debate. Failure of the officially registered candidate to appear and debate will be considered a waiver of the invitation to participate in the officially sanctioned debate of the Kansas Republican Party. Understanding that there may be legitimate scheduling conflicts, the Kansas Republican Party will consider making a short statement as to the reason for the candidate's absence. The content of the statement will be subject to the discretion of the Kansas Republican Party but the candidate should consider submitting a

short and to the point explanation of the candidate's absence for possible use by the Kansas Republican Party at the start of the debate when the candidate has a scheduling conflict.

- b. There will be no more than two debates prior to June 1, 2026 and no more than two debates after June 1, 2026. However, with consensus of all major Republican candidates, one additional debate might be added before and/or after June 1, 2026 as well as prior to the primary. The first Kansas Republican Party Sanctioned Gubernatorial Primary Debate will be held during the Kansas Republican Party Winter Convention in January 2026. (Wichita, Kansas).
- c. The Kansas Republican Party will work with all media outlets that might request a debate. The Kansas Republican Party will attempt to include multiple media outlets for each debate. By way of example, the Kansas Republican Party will attempt to combine media outlets to include representation of television, radio and print media.
- d. The Kansas Republican Party will attempt to include appropriate third-party hosts of the debates. For example, efforts will be made to have various universities and schools to host the debates.
- e. No debate shall last more than 90 minutes.
- f. No candidate shall receive more questions or debate time from the moderator than other candidates including rebuttal time.
- g. No questions will be asked that cannot be asked of all candidates.
- h. Questions will be geared towards issues and not specific candidates. Participants will answer questions as to their personal position on a topic without engaging in personal attacks. Participants can attack issues but shall refrain from making personal attacks.
- i. No candidate will have advance notice of any proposed questions.
- j. The Kansas Republican Party will try to schedule debates in a manner to be geographically diverse throughout Kansas.
- k. The Kansas Republican Party will work with media outlets and organizations to suggest questions that are important to Kansas Republican voters.
- l. At all times during each debate, each signatory to this Agreement will maintain the appearance of appropriate and respectful decorum towards the panel and other candidates.

6. All parties agree that the Kansas Republican Party may in its discretion add additional Republican candidates seeking the office of Kansas Governor to this Agreement provided such additional candidates meet the minimum requirements set forth in paragraph 4 above.
7. If a candidate abandons the candidate's campaign for office then the candidate will no longer be qualified to participate in future debates. Likewise, any breach of this Agreement could render the candidate no longer qualified in the discretion of The Kansas Republican Party.
8. Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement, or breach therefore, between candidates shall be settled by binding mediation administered by the Kansas Republican Party or its designee(s). In the event the Kansas Republican Party or its designee is unable to resolve the dispute, then any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement, shall be settled by arbitration administered by the American Arbitration Association in accordance with its Commercial Arbitration Rules, and judgment on the award rendered by the arbitrator(s) may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof.
9. This Agreement contains the final and entire agreement of all parties whose signatures follow. Any changes shall be in writing. The Kansas Republican Party can make changes to this Agreement as deemed necessary by the Kansas Republican Party. Candidates can make changes provided 80% of eligible candidates that are signatories to this Agreement agree with the proposed change. The laws of the State of Kansas shall be applicable and applied to the exclusion of any laws of any other state.
10. The signatures below appear in alphabetical order of the qualified candidates at the time of the original signing and thereafter, signatures appear in order of additional candidates becoming qualified.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, below follow the signatures of all qualified Candidates for the Republican primary race for the Office of Governor of the State of Kansas

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