



**The Fairfax County Democratic Committee
Urges the Democratic Presidential Nominee to Demand
Independent Real-time Fact-Checking during Presidential Debates**

Whereas,

The Commission on Presidential Debates has scheduled three debates in 2020 between the Democratic and Republican nominees for President of the United States.

The purpose of the debates is to inform the American people about the candidates' views on matters of public interest and on the policies and programs they intend to pursue if elected to the highest office in the land.

The public is entitled to hear the candidates speak truthfully and honestly. However, the presumptive Republican nominee -- the incumbent President of the United States -- is an inveterate liar. His lies, untruths, half-truths, falsehoods, prevarications, brazen misrepresentations, and shavings of the truth in his public utterances have been amply documented by the mainstream media and others.

According to The Washington Post's Fact Checker on July 13, 2020:

- "It took President Trump 827 days to top 10,000 false and misleading claims in The Fact Checker's database, an average of 12 claims a day. But on July 9, just 440 days later, the president crossed the 20,000 mark — an average of 23 claims a day over a 14-month period, which included the events leading up to Trump's impeachment trial, the worldwide pandemic that crashed the economy and the eruption of protests over the death of George Floyd in police custody."
- "So far during his presidency, Trump's most repeated claim — 360 times — is that the U.S. economy today is the best in history."
- "Trump's penchant for repeating false claims is demonstrated by the fact that the Fact Checker database has recorded nearly 500 instances in which he has repeated a variation of the same claim at least three times."

There is no reason to expect Mr. Trump to suddenly abandon this brazen behavior during the presidential debates. Indeed, given the high stakes, one can reasonably expect him to double down on the practice.

To allow the President to lie during the debates and to let his lies go unchallenged would do a great disservice to the American people. It would also be grossly unfair by essentially putting the onus of fact-checking on his opponent. To protect the public from the harm that Mr. Trump's lies can produce and level the playing field for the candidates, the debate sponsors and organizers should, therefore, provide independent, real-time fact-checking for the debates.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Fairfax County Democratic Committee urges the 2020 Democratic nominee for President of the United States to insist that the organizers and sponsors of the presidential debates establish a panel of independent fact-checkers to inform the viewing public, within three minutes of any challenge by a debate opponent, of the veracity of statements or claims made by either candidate during the debate, or of any inaccurate statement or allegation by the debaters that the moderators or fact-checkers on their own may detect.

PASSED and APPROVED on this 28th day of July 2020.