

Decision 2018: The race for governor. Republicans pre-assembly debate

Due to a technical error at the beginning of the debate web stream, the first two minutes of the broadcast are omitted in the archived video of the debate on 9NEWS.com. Below is the transcript of the broadcast that was omitted.

To see the archived video, click here: <https://on9news.tv/21003YL>

Opening remarks by 9NEWS hosts Kyle Clark and Brandon Rittiman

KYLE:

Good evening.
I'm Kyle Clark.

BRANDON:

And I'm Brandon Rittiman.
Welcome to the Lakewood Cultural Center for our first debate of the 2018 election season.

KYLE:

Tonight - the Democratic candidates for Governor debate.
Tomorrow night - same time, same channel - the Republican candidates for Governor will join us.

Our audience has agreed to hold its applause to maximize time for the candidates - except now - as we welcome them to the debate stage.

BRANDON:

Our partner in organizing the debate is the League of Women Voters - a non-partisan voter education group.
We alone chose the format and the questions - which have not been shared with the candidates in advance.
The candidates are on stage alphabetically from left to right by last name.

KYLE:

They are...
Former State Senator Mike Johnston.
Colorado's Lieutenant Governor Donna Lynne.
And former State Treasurer Cary Kennedy.

BRANDON:

Congressman Jared Polis is the only Democratic candidate we invited who declined to participate. His staff told us they would not debate prior to the statewide Assembly this weekend, when the field is expected to narrow. 9NEWS will host primary debate following the state assemblies - with invitations extended to every candidate who makes the ballot.

KYLE:

No opening statements— we will have closing statements.

Candidates will have a minute to answer most questions. They can see a countdown clock at the back of the room.

BRANDON:

The candidates have participated in many forums - where they each answer every question in turn. The purpose of this first televised debate - is to explore where the candidates have differences of opinion and experience - to allow voters to make an informed choice. We'll occasionally ask candidates to raise their hands in response to a question - to see where they have differences of opinion - so we can explore those.