



August 28, 2019

Mr. Tom Perez
Chairman
Democratic National Committee
430 South Capitol Street SE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Chairman Perez:

I write today to request answers to the enclosed questions, which will provide clarity for Democratic voters on how the DNC developed its debate criteria and certainty on how the process will proceed going forward.

To date, the DNC has not provided information on how or why its unprecedented debate qualification requirements were set nor what the criteria will be for the eight future debates.

The least we owe the Democratic voters is transparency about why and how decisions are being made on their behalf to ensure a fair process as the primary continues.

Sincerely,

Craig Hughes
Advisor
Bennet for America

Enclosure

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Questions

1. Why didn't you consult DNC membership — which is the governing body of the Democratic Party — or state parties in designing the debate process and criteria?
2. Why hasn't the DNC informed campaigns of the entry requirements and qualifying deadlines for upcoming debates 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 so each campaign can plan its strategy accordingly and have confidence that the DNC is not moving the bar on behalf of the frontrunners' campaigns?
3. If the rules have not been finalized for the next set of debates, why hasn't this happened yet and when do you expect to get around to it?
4. Who at the DNC decided which polls would be sanctioned? What was the specific criteria for allowing certain polls and not others, and why has that not been publicly disclosed? For example, why are polls from reputable polling organizations, such as Suffolk University, Marist College, and Siena College, excluded from the DNC's approved list?
5. Why were polling organizations that were permissible in Debates 1 and 2 deemed no longer permissible in Debates 3 and 4?
6. With whom did you consult to determine the donor threshold, and what is the significance of that particular number?
7. Was anyone who is now on the staff of a presidential campaign consulted about the debate qualification rules?
8. What campaigns will you consult moving forward, and if not all of them, why not?
9. Why is the DNC in an unprecedented rush to eliminate candidates from a volatile field five months before the first vote is cast?
10. Did the DNC consult with television networks on the debate requirements? Are television networks making decisions to limit candidates from the debate?
11. Why are candidates prohibited from participating in non-DNC forums and debates that would allow the voters the opportunity to hear in-depth discussion given the DNC's refusal to hold issue-specific debates?