**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The Utah Debate Commission Selects Moderators**

*UTDC welcomes Rod Arquette, Pat Jones, David Magleby, Jennifer Napier-Pearce, Doug Wilks, and Doug Wright to moderate debates*

*SALT LAKE CITY* —The Utah Debate Commission (UTDC) has selected Rod Arquette, Pat Jones, David Magleby, Jennifer Napier-Pearce, Doug Wilks, and Doug Wright as event moderators.

**Rod Arquette, KNRS –** Arquette is a veteran journalist and broadcaster whose career has included both on-air and management opportunities. Arquette was a television producer, reporter, and anchor for KUTV 2News. In 1988 he became news director for KSL Newsradio. During his nearly 22 years with Bonneville International Corporation, the parent company to KSL, he served in a variety of management positions including news director, program director, and vice president of news and programming for the Bonneville Salt Lake Radio Group. In 2010, Arquette became the new afternoon talk show host and program director for Utah’s Talk Radio on KNRS.

**Pat Jones –** As co-founder and former president of Dan Jones & Associates, Jones helped lead and manage the company while serving on numerous community and company boards. Jones served in the Utah Legislature for 14 years, serving in leadership positions 12 of those years. She was a member of the Utah House of Representatives from 2000-2006 and was elected to the Utah Senate in 2006-2014, serving eight years there.

**David Magleby –** Magleby is a distinguished professor of political science at Brigham Young University and formerly the dean of the College of Family, Home, and Social Sciences at that institution. He is an expert on direct democracy and campaign finance.

**Jennifer Napier-Pearce –** Napier-Pearce was the editor of The Salt Lake Tribune, which she joined in January 2013 as a business writer before becoming host of the daily video program “TribTalk” and “Behind the Headlines” a weekly radio news show. She was named editor in 2016.

**Doug Wilks** – Wilks was named editor of the Deseret News in November 2016, increasing the strength and rigor of the news report and was instrumental in extending the reach of Deseret News to millions of readers. Prior to his appointment, he worked as managing editor of the News Division, leading a multiplatform newsroom for the Deseret News and KSL TV and Radio, and their digital platforms. Wilks has worked in the news industry for more than 35 years. Prior to joining the Deseret News and KSL, he worked in various editing and leadership capacities in the team-structured newsroom of The Press Democrat in Santa Rosa, California, then part of the New York Times Regional Media Group. He also worked as city editor for the Marin Independent Journal, formerly with Gannett, and managing editor and city editor of the Napa Valley Register, then a Scripps League Newspapers publication.

**Doug Wright –** After over 40 years in broadcasting, Wright is now semi-retired. He hosted [KSL's Doug Wright](https://www.facebook.com/DougWrightShowKSL/?__tn__=K-R&eid=ARBO9eyruvQIdacfAmxbWw9vH2Tmz8QVApIVy5FMwe7X3ak-ff-7aO4_777szALGfapuGwfk8sGUz-Iw&fref=mentions&__xts__%5B0%5D=68.ARDhAxBswJOGoPMb-fyv7ENVBAumfFXP9PMn5x1bDRjBKUsjc5RMzHmQyTKPEazs-Bp5a0ZDpOHr0ncr_e2b9QRYWvjBg4qrXhq2XreSdxeUe05rr86EQcnOB8hG165xnl6Y9fZnEEb-3L--E7LYAcBpBBLVwbs9zxP8scH1V-plEf_OnnjjzjZQKvNUzb1Uy2u4xBBLfHlwyI7D0dP1lsHeuAQjeSwAcQ) Show on KSL Newsradio. His professional background is distinguished by public service and community involvement, and he has long been recognized as a rational, dependable voice on a myriad of local and national topics. Most of his over 40 years in the broadcast industry have been spent at KSL Newsradio in Salt Lake City where listeners depended on his knowledge of worldwide political and current events. Wright is a Utah native, proud of pioneer roots that go back to the 1840s, and his family political legacy.

The UTDC selects moderators on the basis of the following preferred qualifications: not publicly linked with any political party or candidate, comfortable with television appearances, and respected as a civic leader in the community. See the schedule and moderators below.

**1st Congressional District Debate**

**Moderator:** Rod Arquette

Thursday, September 24, 2020 from 6-7 p.m.

**Utah Governor Debate**

**Moderator:** Doug Wright

Tuesday, September 29, 2020 from 6-7 p.m.

**Vice-Presidential Debate**

**Moderator:** Susan Page, USA Today (chosen by the Commission for Presidential Debates)

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

University of Utah

**4th Congressional District Debate**

**Moderator:** Doug Wilks

Monday, October 12, 2020 from 6-7 p.m.

**3rd Congressional District Debate**

**Moderator:** David Magleby

Thursday, October 15, 2020 from 6-7 p.m.

**2nd Congressional District Debate**

**Moderator:** Pat Jones

Monday, October 19, 2020 from 6-7 p.m.

**Utah Attorney General Debate**

**Moderator:** Jennifer Napier-Pearce

Wednesday, October 21, 2020 from 6-7 p.m.

*The UTDC is a consortium of higher educational institutions and media organizations dedicated to creating and facilitating an ordered, non-partisan and independent system of debates among qualified candidates for statewide and federal offices in Utah during each election cycle.*

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