



*Welcome to the **Emory University June 27 presidential debate and Republican National Convention media tip sheet.***

Our media relations team has identified dozens of Emory experts to discuss next week's scheduled presidential debate and next month's upcoming Republican National Convention. You are welcome to use all material listed. If you would like to be connected to one of our experts, please contact the media relations team at news@emory.edu.

Political Fandom

Professor Mike Lewis looks at fandom and has done research as well on political fandom. Professor Lewis says, "Donald Trump is the overwhelming Republican fan favorite. The use of fandom as the metric is critical, as his dominance is based on deep connections rather than momentary preferences." [View research on Republican Fandom and Trump's VP Choice.](#)

Professor Erin Tarver specializes in feminist philosophy, American pragmatism, and the philosophy of sport. She has particular interests in the relationship between popular culture and the self. She has written on a range of topics, including politics, sports, William James and Michel Foucault.

Environmental Issues

Professor Wesley Longhofer is available to discuss the business impact of policies that will impact the planet. His recent book, *Super Polluters: Tackling the World's Largest Sites of Climate-Disrupting Emissions* looks at the impact of fossil fuels on the environment.

Social Media, AI Policy and Advertising

Professor David Schweidel is available to discuss how social media will impact the elections, as well as AI policies. Schweidel has also done extensive work on the [impact of negative political advertisements](#).

Economics

Professor Suhas Sridharan is available to discuss the political economy and how lobbying and campaign contributions influence policy making. [View paper on political hedging.](#)

Professor Tom Smith is an economist who can discuss all policies surrounding labor, real estate, and cultural economics.

Law Experts

Professor Polly Price focuses on citizenship and immigration law as well as public health. She is frequently quoted as an expert in immigration and public health policy.

Professor John Acevedo focuses on criminal law and procedure. He has been widely interviewed on the legal cases surrounding former President Donald Trump.

Professor Kay Levine focuses on criminal procedure. She can discuss ethics and how court cases work. Levine can also discuss police investigations and victimless crimes.

Professor Jonathan Nash focuses on civil procedure and Federal courts. He can discuss the pending Supreme Court case on former President Trump's immunity.

Professor Fred Smith focuses on Constitutional law. He can discuss gun rights, abortion and Supreme Court ethics.

Professor Matthew Sag focuses on artificial intelligence. He is also a leading authority in copyright law and its implication for researchers in text data mining, machine learning and AI.

Professor Alexander Volokh focuses on Constitutional law. He can discuss the law and economic policy, abortion and antitrust laws.

Professor Kevin Quinn focuses on election law, law and politics and judicial behavior.

Gun Safety

Sharron M. Close, PhD, Sharron M. Close, PhD, is a pediatric nurse practitioner and assistant professor at Emory's Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing. Dr. Close is a leading voice on gun safety and the public health implications of gun violence.

She says: "I'll be looking to hear from a candidate who is a visionary regarding gun safety and responsibility; for the candidate to acknowledge the breadth and depth of the serious issues surrounding gun violence and prioritize finding solutions. I'll be listening for someone who can take down boundaries between polarizing views about guns and direct focus toward making meaningful and measurable action now. I hope to hear from someone who can build consensus on

creating solutions for better gun responsibility and safety using existing systems and technologies.”

Women’s Health and Reproductive Rights

Shawana S. Moore, PhD, DNP, is an associate professor at Emory’s Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing specializing in maternal health, women’s reproductive health, and abortion care. With a career dedicated to advancing healthcare practices and policies, Dr. Moore is a vocal advocate for improving women’s access to reproductive health services, particularly for underserved populations.

She says: “I’ll be listening for a candidate who prioritizes evidence-based policies, respects individual and bodily autonomy, and advocates for equitable access to reproductive health care for all. I’m particularly interested in their positions on key issues such as contraception access, abortion rights, maternal health, comprehensive sex education, and the affordability of reproductive care.”

Political Science Experts

Zachary Peskowitz focuses on American politics, with a particular interest in how elections affect policy outcomes.

He says: “Both Biden and Trump will be looking to display command of the debate stage in order to dispel concerns that their age and health limits their ability to serve effectively as president. With the debate taking place in Atlanta, local viewership is likely to be quite high so both candidates have an important opportunity to make a positive impression to voters in the critical swing state of Georgia.”

Michael Rich specializes in public policy, policy analysis and evaluation, federalism, and urban politics/policy.

He says: “Presidential debates have traditionally not been a venue for deep discussion of domestic policies beyond very broad generalities. It will be interesting to see how, if at all, the issues of housing affordability and workforce development, which many consider to be among the most pressing, are addressed.”

Andra Gillespie focuses on African American politics and political participation.

She says: “The big question will be how much of this debate is substantive versus how much will focus on the more performative aspects, like the number and quality of zingers and whether either candidate makes a serious gaffe during the debate. This debate is important because of the possibility that future debates may be cancelled. A debate that devolves into barbs and recriminations will deprive the small sliver of undecided voters useful information that could help them make a decision about their vote choice or even whether to vote at all.”

Bernard Fraga is interested in American electoral politics, racial and ethnic politics, and political behavior. He can discuss the following:

- Impact of race and ethnicity in elections
- Minority voter turnout and office seeking
- Analysis of data on voter registration records and election results

Alan Abramowitz is interested in American politics, political parties, elections, and voting behavior. He can discuss the following:

- National politics, polling and elections
- Election forecasting models
- Party realignment in the U.S.