

ORGANIZING A DEBATE WATCHING PARTY

Hosting a debate watching party is a fun and exciting way to experience a political debate, and an excellent way to engage your friends and family who may not be as excited and passionate as you are about the Constitution.

Consider hosting a debate watching party at your home, a local university, at your church or in a restaurant, bar or club. Invite your guests to come at least a half-hour before the start of the debate so that you can get acquainted. Inviting people through an online invitation service or by email is a simple way to get the word out—but don't forget that following up by phone is an integral part to building a good RSVP list.

Another thing to think about is integrating your debate watching party with other group activities you participate in, like your book club, other volunteer activities or civic groups and clubs.

Have a specific RSVP date and time to gauge how many guests will attend, and provide guests directions to the party location. Don't forget to keep track of your RSVP's so that you can plan sufficiently for the number of guests you are expecting.

WHAT TO BRING

- Make it a potluck and invite your guests to bring their favorite snacks.
- Encourage your guests to wear an "I'm a Constitution Voter" sticker. Download and print the stickers at www.aclu.org.
- Bring information about becoming a Constitution Voter. The ACLU has created a variety of concise, attractive leave behind materials for you to use to educate others about becoming a Constitution Voter. Download door hangers, brochures, stickers and other helpful materials.
- Bring the Constitution Voter Pledge and sign in sheets.
- Bring copies of the pledge. Encourage your guests to get three more Constitution Voters to join us in our efforts to protect and defend the Constitution.

DURING THE DEBATE

To add some spirit to your debate watching party, invite your guests to arrive early so that you can offer some viewing tips to keep things lively. The key is to find ways to make the 'watching' part of the party a more active experience.

Make a game of it—award points or prizes to the guest who was able to predict the questions or statements made by the candidates.

Ask your guests to record any statement candidates make which reference the issues in the Constitution Voter pledge.

AFTER THE DEBATE

- Debrief with your guests about what they expected and what was unexpected from the debate.
- Throw popcorn at the talking heads as they deconstruct every moment of the debate.
- Be sure to wrap up by taking a moment to stress an action component following the debate. Make sure that your guests all have had the opportunity to sign the Constitution Voter pledge, sign up to participate in a future event and commit to recruiting friends, family and neighbors to be Constitution Voters.