

# First debate set for Ohio's Republican U.S. Senate candidates. Here's how to watch it.

**By Andrew J. Tobias**  
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COLUMBUS, Ohio — The first of three planned debates between Ohio's Republican U.S. Senate candidates has been set.

The debate, coordinated by the Ohio Republican Party, is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 22, at WJW Fox 8's studios in Cleveland. It will air on Nexstar Media TV affiliates across the state, including WCMH in Columbus, WDTN in Dayton, WYTV in Youngstown, WTRF in Wheeling / Steubenville and WOWK in Charleston, West Virginia, as well as the stations' digital platforms.

If you don't have cable, you can watch the debate for free on [FuboTV](#) (offering \$20 off the first two months of the subscription in addition to the free trial) or [DirecTV Stream](#).

The three major candidates in the race, state Sen. Matt Dolan of Chagrin Falls, Secretary of State Frank LaRose and Bernie Moreno, a former Cleveland area car dealer, have agreed to participate, according to debate organizers. It will be moderated by Joe Toohey, a Fox 8 anchor and Colleen Marshall, an anchor for WCMH in Columbus.

The Jan. 22 event is the first of three planned televised debates before the March 19 primary, according to Dan Lushek, a spokesperson for the Ohio Republican Party. The other two will be held with different partners, and tentatively are planned to be held in February and March. The candidates previously have participated in local candidate forums, but none have been aired live on television and generally haven't given candidates the chance to directly respond to each other.

The state party decided to get involved with organizing debates for this election to help make negotiations between the candidates smoother while ensuring the events will focus on issues that are important to Republican primary voters, Lushek said.

“Our big thing is we want to make sure these are fair debates,” Luschek said. “And from our perspective, we’re really pushing as we talk about these folks that we want these debates to serve Republican primary voters.

Chris Maloney, a Dolan campaign spokesperson, said Dolan looks forward to “championing his conservative, results-driven record.”

“The only question is which versions of Bernie Moreno and Frank LaRose decide to show up,” Maloney said.

Cleveland.com and The Plain dealer have reached out to the LaRose and Moreno campaigns.