

September 2, 2022

Citizens Clean Elections Commission
1616 W. Adams St., Suite 110
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for your invitation to the 2022 General Election Gubernatorial Debate. We greatly appreciate your efforts to put together this event.

Secretary Hobbs firmly believes that Arizonans deserve every opportunity to evaluate candidates for public office and hear their visions for the future of our state – without constant interruptions, pointless distractions, childish name-calling, tired conspiracy theories, and demonstrably false accusations.

We need to look no further than the Clean Elections' Republican primary debate to see how little regard Kari Lake displayed to produce a good faith debate of ideas.

“The rest of the debate was pure chaos. Arizona PBS anchor Ted Simons attempted to keep the candidates in line, but the night quickly devolved into name-calling and finger-pointing...”

Axios Phoenix

“Arizona’s four Republican candidates for governor met onstage Wednesday in the only televised debate of the primary election, what amounted to an hourlong throw down between the contenders. The back-and-forth, near-constant interruptions and din of candidates speaking over one another prompted one — Kari Lake — to quip at one point: ‘I feel like I’m on an ‘SNL’ skit here.’”

Arizona Republic

For weeks, Arizona was ridiculed as clips of the GOP primary debate circulated on social media. As a candidate and as governor, Sec. Hobbs will never participate in something that will make Arizona the butt of late-night TV jokes and national ridicule. She has too much respect for the people of Arizona.

In the GOP primary debate, instead of talking about how she plans to move our state forward, Kari Lake brought almost every single answer back to lies about an election that happened almost two years ago. In fact, she mentioned the 2020 election and the false conspiracies around it at least 12 times in the hour-long debate. Arizonans are tired of partisan conspiracies about the 2020 election. Voters want solutions and a

governor with real plans to drive our state forward for everyone. Kari Lake only wants a spectacle, and she has made that clear in repeated combative interactions with the media.

Over the last few weeks, we have worked with Clean Elections to find a format that would lead to a robust discussion of the most pressing issues facing Arizonans. Unfortunately, the only modification to the original proposal that Clean Elections offered was loosely-enforced time limits. But Clean Elections did note that they “remain ready to consider any additional requests your campaign wants to offer that further formalize the structure.”

Accordingly, in place of the current debate structure, we would like to provide voters with a venue that allows Arizonans the chance to compare the ideas, policies, and solutions of their candidates. We propose:

- Each candidate conducts a separate thirty minute town hall-style interview with Ted Simons, which could appear back-to-back in the same hour.
- Each candidate would have one minute to make opening and closing statements, as in the original proposal.
- Mr. Simons would then have full license to conduct his interview and ask questions of his choosing.

We believe our proposal would achieve the goals Clean Elections aimed to achieve and satisfy the concerns of Arizonans, who wish for nothing more than a sober opportunity to weigh their candidates. We look forward to finding a mutually agreed upon date with Clean Elections for this important discussion.

Sincerely,

Nicole DeMont
Campaign Manager
Elect Katie Hobbs