

As Introduced

**130th General Assembly
Regular Session
2013-2014**

H. C. R. No. 61

Representatives Curtin, Sykes

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge candidates for statewide offices in the 2014 1
general election to participate in public debates 2
with their opponents. 3

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE
OF OHIO (THE SENATE CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, There are multiple qualified candidates on the 4
ballot in the 2014 general election for Governor, Auditor of 5
State, Attorney General, Secretary of State, and Treasurer of 6
State; and 7

WHEREAS, Some qualifying candidates for statewide offices 8
have refused to participate in any debates scheduled prior to the 9
general election that will be held on November 4, 2014; and 10

WHEREAS, Candidates for Governor of Ohio have publicly 11
debated each other before every election since 1978; and 12

WHEREAS, Public debates represent a civic and moral 13
obligation for candidates to make their ideas and agenda for the 14
direction of our state clear and known to the general public in a 15
forum proposed by established, reputable organizations with a 16
history of fostering debate and discussion that lends itself to 17
greater scrutiny from the electorate; and 18

WHEREAS, A social contract established with the ratification 19
of the Declaration of Independence and the United States 20

Constitution requires that the government's only true power is 21
granted through the consent of the American People, who elect 22
public officials to act on behalf of their best interests; and 23

WHEREAS, The power of public officials is only a reflection 24
of the power of the People; thusly the People should have every 25
opportunity to adequately and appropriately evaluate and select 26
their representatives based on their beliefs of what the best 27
interests of the people include and require; and 28

WHEREAS, A primary goal of the Ohio General Assembly should 29
be to engage, inform, and encourage participation among Ohio 30
voters; now therefore be it 31

RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of the State of Ohio 32
urges candidates for statewide offices to agree to debates between 33
themselves and other qualified candidates appearing on the ballot, 34
which are to be held prior to the start of voting in the general 35
election and broadcast on statewide television and via online 36
streaming; and be it further 37

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 38
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the news 39
media of Ohio. 40