



March 30, 2020

The Honorable William J. Pascrell, Jr.
POB 100
Teaneck, NJ 07666

Zinovia "Zina" Spezakis
400 Tenafly Road #695
Tenafly, NJ 07670

Re: DEMOCRATIC DEBATE IN THE 9TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

Dear fellow Democratic candidates,

The upcoming primary election on June 2, 2020 will be held during a historic pandemic that has severely upended our way of life. We are living through a crisis that has quickly pushed our healthcare system, educational system, and economy to the brink of collapse. Voters have asked me whether we still have a functioning government, whether we will still hold elections, and whether we will still have debates.

In such trying times, we have to do everything we can to hold on to our democratic traditions. On August 24, 1814, near the end of the War of 1812, the British marched into Washington D.C. and burned the White House, the U.S. Capitol, and nearly every other public building to the ground. Nonetheless, we still held Congressional elections a few months later. We lived by our democratic ideals then, we must live by them now.

The voters deserve to hear from all of us regarding our views on crucial issues presently affecting our district and our country. As candidates, we have a duty to describe our platforms, defend our positions, and answer questions from the public in a format that allows voters to compare us to one another. We have a duty to honor our fundamental democratic traditions even in the worst of times. We have a duty to debate each other.

Accordingly, we cordially request your participation in a public debate to be held virtually at a future date and time jointly agreed upon by all three of us. In addition, we request that the debate be virtually moderated by two to four neutral local news journalists and be virtually attended by the general public.

Sincerely,

Alp Basaran