TOWARD A FAIR MICHIGAN

DEBATE FORMAT GUIDELINES

Two-Person Debate

Each presenter delivers a twenty-minute presentation, followed by five-minute responses. After the presentations and responses, there will be a period of fifteen to thirty minutes for questions from the audience, to which each participant will respond in alternating turns. The order of presentation will be pro-affirmative action preferences followed by con-affirmative action preferences, until the period of responding to audience questions, which can open with either pro or con but will then follow an alternating pattern. The format is designed to encourage discussion, civil exchange and the exploration of ideas.

Four-Person Debate

Each presenter delivers a ten-minute presentation, followed by five-minute responses. After the presentations and responses, there will be a period of fifteen to thirty minutes for questions from the audience, to which each participant will respond in alternating turns. The order of presentation will be pro-affirmative action preferences (1st speaker) con-affirmative action preferences (2nd speaker), con-affirmative action preferences (3rd speaker), pro-affirmative action preferences (4th speaker). The period of responding to audience questions can open with either pro or con but will then follow an alternating pattern. In order to allow time for a greater number of audience questions to be addressed, usually only one of the two “pro” speakers and one of the two “con” speakers will respond to each question, with the overall response rotation such that all speakers participate equally in responding to the questions overall though not to each individual question. The format is designed to encourage discussion, civil exchange and the exploration of ideas.

Method for Audience Participation

As part of planning for each debate, TAFM and the cosponsor will decide whether to have audience members deliver questions orally, or whether to collect written questions from the audience, which the moderator will read aloud.