

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement on John James Failure to Agree to OCRP Debate

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI — April 8, 2026 — Congressman John James has refused to give a straight answer to an invitation to participate in an upcoming gubernatorial debate later this month, despite the event being scheduled specifically to accommodate conditions set by his campaign.

The debate was intentionally planned after the candidate filing deadline — a requirement that James' campaign made a condition of any participation. As the largest county party in the state and home to a portion of his congressional district, the Oakland County Republican Party had arranged for the debate to be carried live and broadcast on more than 30 radio stations across Michigan, providing significant statewide exposure to help Republican voters make informed decisions ahead of the August primary.

"It's unfortunate that Congressman James won't agree to participate," said Chairman Vance Patrick. "Our volunteers put significant time, sweat, and money towards electing John in the past — only to have him turn up his nose at them. I'm very disappointed in this turn of events."

The debate will proceed as scheduled with participating candidates.

Oakland County Republican Party

Presents



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Gubernatorial Debate



MIKE COX

JOHN JAMES

PERRY JOHNSON

TOM LEONARD

ARIC NESBITT

RALPH REBANDT

following Manufacturing Forum

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2026 • AUBURN HILLS

MANUFACTURING FORUM: 6-7:00 PM | DEBATE: 7-8:00PM | VIP EVENT: 8-9:00 PM

TELEVISED AND BROADCAST LIVE ON FOX 2 & WWJ

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$50 | VIP: \$200

VIP INCLUDES PREFERRED ENTRY, SEATING AND RECEPTION

FORUM BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 6:00 PM.

NO REFUNDS FOR THOSE NOT SEATED BY START TIME.

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