



U.S. SENATE CANDIDATE MARISA DEFRANCO DIRECTLY CHALLENGES CANDIDATE ELIZABETH WARREN TO DEBATE: WARREN DECLINES

Massachusetts voters have yet to see a televised debate in the U.S. Senate Democratic Primary race. Since the online debate at Stonehill College, almost three months ago, the field has narrowed, and **voters of the Commonwealth deserve the opportunity to see candidates debate the serious issues.**

Last week, Candidate Marisa DeFranco personally asked Candidate Elizabeth Warren to engage in a debate. Warren declined.

“Since I last sent out the challenge, I have traveled all over the Commonwealth, and, again, voters ask, ‘When is the next debate?’” said DeFranco. In the debate at Stonehill College (which many said DeFranco won), foreign policy was barely discussed. DeFranco tried to bring up the issue of Iran; the moderator shut down the topic. At the end of the debate, the crowd spontaneously began shouting, “Talk about Iran, talk about Iran.” The moderator shut them down.

DeFranco points out, **“The economy is a huge issue in this campaign, but candidates for U.S. Senate must debate issues of foreign policy and international relations,** especially with Iran and Syria right now, and thus far, we have had none. That is troubling.”

Public debate is a fundamental part of the electoral process. Candidates cannot rely on a script or handlers or a controlled environment in a debate. **Debates provide voters the opportunity to see what the candidates are made of, and how they perform under pressure.**

A robust primary and spirited debate will make the Democratic nominee stronger against Scott Brown. Before that nominee can debate Brown, she or he should be willing to debate her fellow Democrats.

Current Count of Debates and Forums: **DeFranco 10; Warren 2.** “At the most recent forum in Maynard, Jim King and I debated weighty issues from Iran to Jobs to Healthcare. Warren did not attend. I hope she grants voters the opportunity to compare all of us up close and without a net.”