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**Washington, D.C. (May 15, 2024)** — President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump have agreed to participate in two debates, scheduled for June 27 on CNN and September 10 on ABC, as part of the 2024 presidential election campaign.

The debates, confirmed by both candidates, will take place in Atlanta without a live audience. This marks a deviation from previous debate formats intended to minimize distractions.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr., running as an independent candidate, criticized the exclusion, alleging collusion to avoid his participation. Kennedy contended that the decision undermines democracy, especially since 43% of Americans identify as independent. Despite his protests, RFK Jr. does not meet CNN’s debate inclusion criteria, including attaining 15% in four national polls and appearing on enough state ballots to win the presidency.

Ron Klain, Biden's former chief of staff, will assist with debate preparations, emphasizing the need for structured and rule-abiding debates. Trump, eager for more debates, expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of a live audience and called for larger venues.

The quick agreement underscores each candidate's strategy to challenge the other amid widespread discontent with the prospect of a Biden-Trump rematch.

**Source**: AP, The Independent, CNN