# 2024 UK Election: Biden and Trump Buck Tradition with Independent Debates



President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump have scheduled two debates for the upcoming 2024 election cycle, set to take place on June 27 on CNN and September 10 on ABC. This decision deviates from the traditional format organized by the bipartisan Commission on Presidential Debates, which has typically overseen these events since 1987. Both candidates have had previous grievances with the commission’s handling of debate logistics and moderator selections, which led them to plan their debates independently this year.

Historically, the presidential debates have followed a structured format put forth by the Commission on Presidential Debates, which collaborates with television networks to establish settings, moderators, and formats. This cycle originally called for four debates between the two main candidates and one vice-presidential debate. However, Biden and Trump’s campaigns opted for a more tailored schedule.

These debates are crucial as they provide one of the few opportunities for candidates to be seen and evaluated by the public in an unscripted environment. The addition of independent candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. could also impact the dynamics of these debates, depending on whether he qualifies under the networks' criteria.

In the case of an exceptionally close election, there’s also a chance neither major party candidate might secure the required 270 electoral votes outright, evoking a scenario similar to the 1824 election, where the House of Representatives decided the outcome. Currently, Republicans hold a slight advantage in state delegations within the House, which could be significant if such a situation arises.