



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **“Decision 2016: Before You Vote” – Moderator and Panelists Announced: Applications Accepted for Media Credentials**

*~ Leadership Florida, Florida Press Association to produce the live, one-hour commercial television debate at Broward College at 7 p.m. on October 26 ~*

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – All eyes are on Florida for this year’s Senate race as the winner could determine which party is in control of the Senate. Emmy award winner Todd McDermott, WPBF anchor, will moderate the debate, and Neil Brown, Executive Editor, *Tampa Bay Times*, and Patricia Mazzei, Political Writer, *The Miami Herald*, will serve beside him as panelists. Phil Alongi, producer of the debate, said that "I am looking forward to working with this distinguished team of journalists to provide Florida’s voters the information needed to make their decision on who will represent them in Washington."

Members of the media who are interested in covering the upcoming Senate debate are encouraged to apply for credentials at <http://beforeyouvote.org/media-credentialing-requirements/>

Both **Senator Marco Rubio** and **Congressman Patrick Murphy** have formally agreed to participate in the **“Decision 2016: Before You Vote”** debate taking place October 26 on Broward College’s main campus in Davie. If other candidates meet the criteria (posted at [beforeyouvote.org](http://beforeyouvote.org)) , they will also be invited.

The one-hour debate, to be produced by **WPBF 25**, a Hearst-owned ABC affiliate in West Palm Beach, will be broadcast from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, through a “Before You Vote” network of television broadcasters in every one of Florida’s 11 media markets. The live debate broadcast also will be simulcast on Florida Public Radio member stations.

The sponsors of the “Decision 2016: Before You Vote” debate series are **Broward College, The Children’s Movement of Florida, League of Southeastern Credit Unions, AARP, Claude Pepper Foundation, and Black Alliance for Educational Opportunities**. Together, these organizations represent millions of Floridians and thousands of businesses and institutions vital to the life of our state.

In addition to WPBF 25, the “Before You Vote” statewide broadcast partners include: **WJXX (CBS)** in Jacksonville; **WFTV (ABC)** in Orlando; **WTVJ (NBC)** in Miami/Ft. Lauderdale; **WFTS (ABC)** in Tampa/St. Petersburg; **WBBH (NBC)** in Ft. Myers; **WCTV (CBS)** in Tallahassee; **WMBB (ABC)** in Panama City; **WEAR (ABC)** in Pensacola; **WCJB (ABC)** in Gainesville; and **SNN-SunCoast News TV** in Sarasota.

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*The **Florida Press Association** is a nonprofit corporation designed to protect the freedoms and advance the professional standards of the press in Florida, with a membership that includes most of Florida's daily and weekly newspapers. Visit [www.flpress.com](http://www.flpress.com) to learn more.*

***Broward College** is ranked as one of the top 10 community colleges in the nation by the Aspen Institute. Serving more than 63,000 students annually, Broward College provides residents with certificate programs, two-year university-transfer degrees, two-year career degrees and baccalaureate degrees. The mission of the College is to provide high-quality educational programs and services that are affordable and accessible to a diverse community of learners. For more information, visit [www.broward.edu](http://www.broward.edu).*

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