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Times to co-host two debates with CNN and USF in Tampa

TAMPA BAY, FL – The *St. Petersburg Times* has partnered with CNN and the University of South Florida to co-host a U.S. Senate debate and a Florida gubernatorial debate.

Both debates will air live on CNN and be held on the campus of the University of South Florida in Tampa.

The U.S. Senate debate will be moderated by CNN Chief Political Correspondent Candy Crowley and air live on CNN's "State of the Union" at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 24.

CNN's Chief National Correspondent John King will moderate the gubernatorial debate, which will air live on "John King USA" at 7 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 25.

CNN has a long-established history and reputation as a major source for state, national and international political news, exemplified in its award-winning coverage of the 2008 presidential campaign that included more primary debates and national forums than any other network.

The *St. Petersburg Times* has coordinated debates for national, state and local offices for 16 years – including the final gubernatorial debate in 1994 and back-to-back U.S. Senate and gubernatorial debates four years later. The *Times* also sponsored the 1996 Vice Presidential Debate between Al Gore and Jack Kemp with the Commission on Presidential Debates in St. Petersburg.

"Our two media organizations bring first-class debate experience and expertise unprecedented in the state of Florida," said Jounice Nealy-Brown, director of communications for the *Times*.

About the St. Petersburg Times

The *St. Petersburg Times* is widely considered one of the Top Ten newspapers in America. The *Times* has won eight Pulitzer Prizes, including two in 2009. It is Florida's largest newspaper with an average circulation of 417,807 Sunday and 278,888 daily (ABC publisher's statement 3/28/10). The *Times* is produced by the Times Publishing Company, which also publishes Tampa Bay's largest local news Web site, nearly than 1.7 million unique visitors each month (Nielsen NetView average for 4/10-6/10).

Additionally, the company publishes the free daily *tbt** *Tampa Bay Times* and the Pulitzer Prize-winning Web site, **PolitiFact.com**; and produces special events, specialty publications, and targeted advertising programs.