

# Andrea Campbell still dodgy about debates, sticks to ‘we’ll see’ response on challenge

By [MATTHEW MEDSGER](#) | [mmedsger@bostonherald.com](mailto:mmedsger@bostonherald.com) | Boston Herald

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Democratic candidate for attorney general Andrea Campbell continued her “we’ll see” approach to whether or not she’ll debate her Republican opponent before November’s general election this weekend.

“We are not doing seven debates,” Campbell told WCVB’s Ed Harding and Janet Wu on their Sunday politics show On the Record.

“We’ll see,” Campbell said when asked if she would meet at all.

Her opponent, Cape Cod Attorney Jay McMahon, challenged Campbell to seven or eight debates before the general election.

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Despite being clear she will not meet the Republican for the once-a-week debates he challenged her to, Campbell hasn’t agreed to meet her opponent at all before voters decide which of them should be the state’s highest law enforcement official.

Campbell says she’s already debated McMahon. That’s true if she counts a candidates forum in late August. But that event included Campbell and her Democratic rivals in the primary, along with McMahon, at an Attorney General Candidates Forum hosted by Quinsigamond Community College and the Worcester County Bar association.

But that hour-long conversation was not billed as a debate, nor was it conducted like one, and McMahon was outnumbered by potential opponents three-to-one.

Campbell acknowledged Sunday that debates do have value, but still wouldn’t say if she would meet McMahon now that both of them have won their primaries.

“We’ll see about future debates,” she said, encouraging people to view the August forum.

“Right now the priority is to get out there, we’ve been getting more attention on the race which is good, to remind folks to get out and vote and to most importantly meet people where they are, so they see us and hear from our campaign and we’ll go from there,” she said.

McMahon said Campbell is dodging debates because she doesn’t want to be challenged on the issues.

“Our opponent is clearly afraid to debate. She is concerned that people will learn about her atrocious positions on crime, her lack of compassion for the victims of crime, her desire to defund the police and her support for illegals having drivers licenses,” McMahon said last week when issued his debate challenge.

The general election will be held on November 8.