

ALA American Library Association

RESOLUTION ON THE 1996 PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES

- WHEREAS,** The Commission on Presidential Debates sponsored the presidential debates in 1988 and 1992 and will again in 1996; and
- WHEREAS,** In 1992, the television audience increased for each consecutive debate, culminating in 97 million people for the third and final presidential debate; and
- WHEREAS,** These events have become central educational forums which Americans expect, watch, and value; and
- WHEREAS,** 13 national organizations, including the American Library Association, have worked with the Commission to promote the educational value of debates and to find ways to engage American citizens in the political process, primarily by gathering debate watchers together to discuss the debates in an effort to be called Debate Watch 96; and
- WHEREAS,** Such public discussion of issues is critical to democracy; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED,** That ALA encourage libraries, schools, colleges and universities and civic and social organizations to encourage small groups of people to come together--in living rooms, community centers, schools, or libraries across the country--to watch the presidential debates and discuss them; and, be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the American Library Association endorse the Debate Watch 96 effort with a letter of support; and, be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the American Library Association facilitate efforts of local libraries to locate information on Debate Watch 96 participation.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
New York, New York
July 10, 1996
(Council Document 20.6)