

Tonight's Presidential Debate Must Address the K-Shaped Recovery

The first Presidential debate is tonight, and we'll be watching to see what the candidates have to say about the economy. The U.S. Chamber doesn't get involved in presidential politics, but we are engaged in presidential policy, which is critical as our economy recovers.

Today, Chamber President Suzanne Clark in an [open letter to debate moderator Chris Wallace](#) urged that this question be asked:

“How will you target support to those businesses, workers, and communities that find themselves on the downward trajectory of the K-Shaped recovery that's now unfolding?”

Why it matters: Clark explained some businesses and industries are recovering well, while others aren't:

The financial services sector, for example, has recovered 94% of its pre-pandemic employment. Leisure and entertainment companies, on the other hand, have only brought back 74% of their workers. Meanwhile, the restaurant industry is expected to lose \$240 billion by the end of 2020 if Congress doesn't take further action, while U.S. airlines could be forced to furlough 75,000 pilots, flight attendants, mechanics, and other workers.

What small businesses are asking: Small businesses have been hit hard. Here's what they want to hear from the candidates.

- Dick Cardew of Cardew Hay Co. in Phoenix, AZ, wants to know about “the candidates' ability to get a second round of COVID-related help done ASAP.”
- “I would like the candidates to discuss their plan to reform healthcare,” said Zawadi Bryant, CEO of Nightlight Pediatric Urgent Care in Houston, TX. “As a business owner, healthcare is one of my biggest expenses. Each year the premiums go up and the coverage/benefit goes down. This is not sustainable.”
- “I want to know what actions the candidates would take and how they would prioritize the work that needs to be done to make our country and our economy stronger and more resilient,” asked Traci Tapani, owner and co-president of Wyoming Machine, Inc. in Stacy, MN.

Clark summed it up: “American voters should hear from each presidential candidate how his administration would chart the road to recovery ahead.”

Dig deeper:

- [The K-Shaped Recovery and the Cost of Inaction](#)
- [Most Small Businesses Say the Economy Is Their Top Election Issue](#)