USC hosts Gubernatorial Town Hall

USC hosted the 26th annual Empowerment Congress Summit Gubernatorial Town Hall, where all six candidates debated critical and timely issues for California.

The following story is excerpted from a story published by ABC7.

The election is not until November, but on Saturday the public got a chance to hear from all of the candidates for governor. State Assemblyman Travis Allen, State Treasurer John Chiang, attorney John Cox, former state Superintendent of Schools Delaine Eastin, Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom and former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa participated in the first gubernatorial town hall of 2018 at University of Southern California. Eyewitness News anchor Marc Brown was a moderator.

USC’s Bovard Auditorium filled up — the crowd made up of students, faculty and residents of Southern California.

There have been forums in the past with just the Democrats and just the Republicans but all were on stage Saturday to discuss several issues affecting the state of California.

The meeting was themed “Empowering California: A Local Perspective.” Some of the topics in the debate-like meeting included education, homelessness, healthcare and the environment.

ABC7 conducted a Survey USA poll released this week that has Lt. Gov. Newsom doubling his nearest opponents. He’s at 19 percent, with fellow Democrat Villaraigosa trailing at 10 percent and Republican Travis Allen at 9 percent.

The primary is in June and the top two finishers will advance to the election in November.

KPCC political reporter Mary Plummer (far left); candidates Travis Allen, John Chiang, John Cox, Delaine Eastin, Gavin Newsom, and Antonio Villaraigosa; with USC President C. L. Max Nikias (fifth from left), Mark Ridley-Thomas (sixth from left), and ABC7’s Marc Brown (far right)  Photo by Eric Abelev
(from left) Candidates Travis Allen, John Chiang, John Cox, Delaine Eastin, Gavin Newsom, and Antonio Villaraigosa

USC alumnus and ABC7 news anchor Marc Brown, President Nikias, and Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas.  
*Photos by Eric Abelev*