

Debate for Ganymede's First Presidential Election

Datestamp: Earth - 07/02/2045.

The two candidates for this debate will be Blair Legrand, leader of the Ganymede First party, and Ingalil Abboud, leader of the Colonists' Coalition party. Ganymede's favorite streamer, Evie Kubota, will moderate the debate.

EVIE, MODERATOR: Welcome everyone to Ganymede's first-ever presidential debate. Tonight we are making history, as for the first time we choose a president for a newly terraformed world.

This debate is being streamed to all six settlements, and voting will take place at the conclusion. I hope you all have your votepasses ready to scan for your preferred candidate. Just a reminder that all registered citizens of Ganymede aged 12 Earth-years and over are eligible to vote. Let's begin. Blair, can you please share your vision for Ganymede?

BLAIR, GANYMEDE FIRST: My vision for Ganymede is simple. I want it to be the best society it can be. Ganymede's best scientists and engineers have worked hard to create the thriving settlements in which we live. We've got plenty of oxygen thanks to our powerful photosynthesis hubs and a healthy atmosphere, thanks to our wonderful engineers.

Thanks to the new safer-than-ever nuclear fission technology, we've got abundant energy transmitted through our underground ocean and enough heat to keep us all warm. We have delicious food from our hydro-farms, fast hoverpods to travel among settlements, and the best education modules in the solar system. We need to maintain that quality of life by ensuring that everyone on Ganymede fully contributes by working hard. In a carefully structured society like this, we can't afford to have people here who aren't doing their fair share.

EVIE, MODERATOR: Ingalil?

INGALIL, COLONISTS' COALITION: Thanks, Evie. We have an incredible opportunity here on Ganymede. This is the first time in the history of humankind that we have created a new planet, so we have the chance to create a civilization based on the principles of equity, compassion, and openness.

I know that some citizens don't have the physical fitness needed to work long hours. Many have suffered vision loss and other effects of low gravity. Some are physically healthy but continue to experience psychological distress as they grieve the loss of family and friends who tragically died when the GanyShuttle flew too close to Jupiter. We are all here together, and we need to care for each other. A foundation of empathy can lead to vibrant, creative, and fulfilling lives for everyone on Ganymede.

EVIE, MODERATOR: We will now be taking questions from citizens. Anyone watching this stream can submit a question and upvote or downvote the questions of others. Let's see which question is the most popular... okay, the top question is: "What do you see as the greatest challenge for Ganymede in the future?"

BLAIR, GANYMEDE FIRST: We need to make the best use of all the terraforming opportunities with which we have been provided. So far, we've got six settlements, but we could have lots more. My business is about to launch a brand new line of hoverpods that use magnets with Ganymede's natural iron core, allowing us to travel among settlements faster than ever before. These are technological challenges that I'm keen to tackle head-on.

INGALIL, COLONISTS' COALITION: For me, the biggest challenge is health. There are still risks with using nuclear fission-generated energy, and ocean-based electrical transmission is a concern when there are

still parts of Ganymede where the crust depth hasn't been determined. There are also many people concerned about staying safe from radiation. Of course, we all wear our protective patches, but with the exposure more than 100 times the rate of Earth's, parents are worried about the long-term impacts on their children. Already we're seeing new illnesses arising that seem to be related to radiation.

BLAIR, GANYMEDE FIRST: I couldn't agree with you more, Ingalil. We need to begin putting up UV shields to cut radiation rates.

INGALIL, COLONISTS' COALITION: That's one possibility. However, we do need to be aware of how it may negatively impact sunlight access, especially given the challenges of finally getting the solar mirrors rotating in a way that mimics Earth's day/night cycles.

EVIE, MODERATOR: Let's move to the next question: How do you feel about rotation engineering?

INGALIL, COLONISTS' COALITION: Rotation engineering could be a disaster, as it was on Europa.

BLAIR, GANYMEDE FIRST: It's our biggest opportunity yet. By accelerating Ganymede's rotation, we can generate more aeropower, making it easier than ever to maintain our atmosphere at the perfect temperature, which is obviously 293 Kelvin.

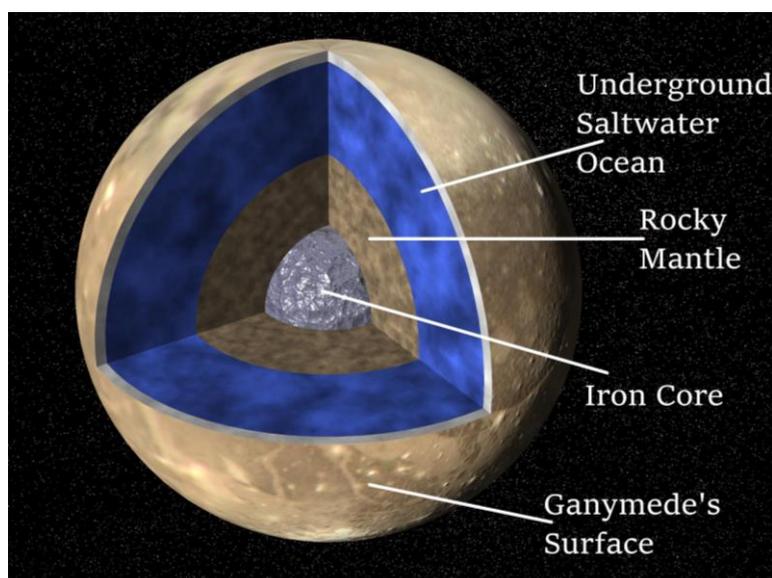
INGALIL, COLONISTS' COALITION: Actually, Blair, a recent poll showed that over half of Ganymede residents preferred between 295 and 297 Kelvin.

BLAIR, GANYMEDE FIRST: No one on Ganymede cares about statistics, do you, folks? You care about Ganymede. And if you care about Ganymede, vote for the Ganymede First party.

INGALIL, COLONISTS' COALITION: It's the people of Ganymede who make this new world such a wonderful place to live, so if you care about people, vote Colonists' Coalition.

EVIE, MODERATOR: It's a big decision to make, Ganymeders! Who will get your vote?

Terraforming Ganymede has not been without its struggles, but the colonists have proven themselves up to the task. As they embark on a new chapter in the colony's story, they are asking for your assistance to examine the Challenges and identify an Underlying Problem addressing an important situation that terraforming Ganymede has created.



NASA/JPL-Caltech 1997-12-16