

Press release 10/18/2010, 9pm

## Oct 19 Leach-McCoy Debate Canceled: The Rest of the Story

One minute summary, in a WHO radio ad to be aired Oct 19: (Also posted on Youtube, under my channel, Biblewizard.)

"Tonight, Senator Matt McCoy had agreed to debate me, Dave Leach. But it won't happen, because McCoy required rules which made me stick to subjects dictated by two groups he is in bed with politically. Had I *strayed* from those subjects there was going to be a *lawyer* there to object. Apparently *no* video or audio record would be made of the debate so people *who did not attend* could see it, or document what was said. And *I* had to agree not to tell anyone what *was* said. For all the details go to [www.Saltshaker.US](http://www.Saltshaker.US). Is it that McCoy is afraid to face me in a real debate? I need your help raising the issues *he* wants *censored*. McCoy raised \$280,000 for his last election. I have raised 1% of that. Please help, at [www.Saltshaker.US](http://www.Saltshaker.US). Or stop by my Family Music Center. And please vote for Dave Leach. (Paid for by Friends of Freedom for Dave Leach.)"

It all started September 1, with Senator Matt McCoy's letter to the editor of the Des Moines Register, bawling out Congressman Steve King for refusing to debate his opponent, invoking grand principles like "democracy" and what the voters "deserve". I took that as a public invitation to debate me, assuming McCoy's reasoning was consistent. On September 7, he accepted. But not until October 11 did the rules arrive.

I did not cancel the debate. League of Women Voters president Deborah Ann Turner canceled it, rather than clarify her unprecedented rules on several points I asked her about. Such as the rule that no TV cameras can be there unless they agree to broadcast the entire 90 minutes, (no highlights or analysis allowed), give the rights to their film to the League of Women Voters (which no TV station will ever do), and announce that I can't tell anyone about the content of the debate to "promote" my campaign. The implication is that private individuals are likewise prohibited from bringing TV cameras, making it impossible for a video record of the event to be made. Is that what LWV means? Rather than simply answer questions like that, Turner canceled the event!

**Voters instinctively understand that no one objects to having a debate video'd unless he or she has something to hide.**

League of Women Voters president Deb Turner, Barbara Boatright who was the League of Women Voter's contact during September, and Turner's chosen moderator Drake law professor David Walker, are all heavy contributors to Democrats, in between insisting they are all "neutral", "fair", and "non-partisan".

These wonderful "neutral" rules would have limited what I can say to questions selected by the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa, which has taken a strong, public position for gay marriage and against the vigorous campaign to vote out the 3 judges who forced sodomite marriage down Iowans' throats. These "fair" rules would have the IAI subjects enforced by David Walker, who wrote a strong op-ed Sept 27 against the campaign to vote out the judges, and who has contributed to Planned Parenthood. Should I stray from the subjects dictated by the IAI, Walker would object. I have been in court, and I know even an ordinary lawyer can object faster than a fish can blink, much less a law professor! These "nonpartisan" rules have additional insurance against me letting slip a new idea, by requiring that the closing statement also stick to the same subjects, and by not allowing opening statements! To make clear how deeply Walker and the IAI are embedded in McCoy's camp, consider that McCoy does not merely support gay marriage, as IAI did Feb 16 when they got 117 pastors to write to legislators asking them to support it. McCoy is gay. Consider that McCoy does not merely oppose the movement to vote out the judges, as Walker and IAI do: Matt McCoy is the reason there is that

movement! According to the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, “McCoy has been instrumental in promoting equality across Iowa for years. When a ban [on] marriage equality was proposed in 2005, Republicans controlled the state Senate – without Matt's eloquent advocacy, many onlookers believe the ban would have passed.” Had McCoy let the ban pass, the Constitutional Amendment would have gone before voters in 2006, and probably again in 2008, making impossible the 2009 Supreme Court order forcing Iowans to accept "gay" marriage, and saving us having to vote three Supreme Court judges off the bench.

These "neutral", "fair", and "nonpartisan" rules insure against the danger that even under those conditions I might slip some drop of wisdom that will make their lies melt like the Wicked Witch of the West, by not allowing a video record, and apparently by making me sign that I agree not to tell anyone later what was said! (This was another ambiguous rule: is that really what they meant? So it appears from the grammar. I would love to have gotten an answer from Turner, but instead she just canceled the event.)

Let's see, did they leave anything out? What about the danger that someone might walk in sympathetic to me, hear something good, and go blab to others about it afterwards? Well, the League of Women Voters did something about that problem too. They held it in a "neutral, fair, nonpartisan" location so liberal that many conservative Christians would shudder to enter: the First Unitarian Church, whose website boasts of its GLBT "Interweave" group. My suggestion of a neutral location like the Fort Des Moines Museum was soundly rejected by LWV.

I wrote to Turner: "On February 16 the Interfaith Alliance got 117 clergy to sign a letter to lawmakers in support of gay marriage. Today's Register says the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa blasted the initiative to vote out 3 Supreme Court justices. McCoy is the reason that initiative is necessary. By contrast, I am strongly opposed to gay marriage, and strongly supportive of the initiative to remove the justices. How am I supposed to believe your claims of being "nonpartisan" when you put an organization, that much "in bed" with my opponent on one of the issues that most divides us, in charge of dictating the subjects upon which I may speak?"

Matt McCoy had plenty of opportunity to dispense with these crazy rules and go with the original moderator I had proposed and to whom he had agreed: Dr. Alan Koslow, who is an eloquent Democrat, but I trust him as reasonable, if not "neutral". But **circumstantial evidence indicates McCoy orchestrated Koslow's exit in favor of a forum upon which he could retain a death grip.**

I don't think what McCoy fears was how he would look compared with me. I think what he fears is how he will look compared with God's standards, of which I remind people. Not because I look so much better by them, but because America needs higher standards very much, right now.

For 60 pages of documentation, see [www.Saltshaker.US/Leach2010/debate.pdf](http://www.Saltshaker.US/Leach2010/debate.pdf)

## THE DETAILS:

The first I thought about debating Matt McCoy was when his Letter to the Editor appeared in the Des Moines Register:

### McCoy's Letter to the Editor September 1, 2010

Des Moines Register Opinion Page

Voters in 5th 'earned' the right to a debate I was disappointed to hear Rep. Steve King inform his opponent Matt Campbell that he "had not earned a debate" ("King Rules Out Debate With Democratic Foe," Aug. 31).

King has an obligation to ensure voters get a full and fair hearing on all candidates' positions.

Despite King's comments, the voters in the 5th Congressional District have earned a debate. As their duly elected congressman, it is King's responsibility to ensure his constituents are able to make an informed decision about their candidates.

Perhaps King would benefit from rededicating himself to the very democracy and constitution he frequently references.

- State Sen. Matt McCoy, Des Moines

*Ken Richards, a fellow Republican (in fact, my opponent in the 2000 primary) working in Iraq, spelled out the implications – that Matt was indirectly proposing to debate me – so, naturally, I accepted! It took me a few days to process the comment stream after the article (which appears below) and analyze it all, but finally, on Sept 7, I sent out my press release accepting:*

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Comment stream after his letter, including my initial 1,000 character response

## McCoy Invites Leach to Debate! Leach Accepts!

*Sept 7, 2010 Press Release by Dave Leach*

McCoy did not mention me directly, but he eloquently advocated his vision of the duty of incumbents like himself to enable his constituents to make informed choices through debates, which he linked to the spirit of Democracy. What is the difference between saying "I believe incumbents like myself should debate their opponents" and "I will debate my opponent"?

I therefore accept Matt McCoy's offer to debate me, which I take from his Sept 1 Letter to the Editor challenging Steve King to debate his opponent Matt Campbell. (See his letter below.)

McCoy explained that he believes candidates have "an obligation to ensure voters get a full and fair hearing on all candidate's positions." I couldn't agree more!

McCoy said a "duly elected" incumbent has a "responsibility to ensure his constituents are able to make an informed decision about their candidates." I am grateful that McCoy shares my view of these things.

McCoy is exactly on target, to equate willingness to debate with "dedicat[ion]...to...democracy and [the] constitution". Freedom, even of speech which some choose to label "offensive", was the first right protected in our Bill of Rights precisely because our Founders recognized democracy is predicated on it. (Actually they hated "democracy", but today we have pretty much redefined the word to be synonymous with "Republic", which is what they gave us and what we have.)

Since it would be insulting to accuse McCoy of applying these principles to others and not himself, I respectfully take his letter as an invitation to me to debate him. I gratefully accept, and look forward to negotiating the details with him. I am sure I could find a church willing to host it, but would be content with the location of his choice. Perhaps a school, since education will be a lively topic for us. I am sure neutral moderators are available. I would propose IowaPolitics.com, (info@iowapolitics.com) or perhaps the League of Women Voters (Karen Person, kp19203@yahoo.com).

This debate between two candidates called “extremists”, who are at opposite extremes, could prove to be the first time in half a century that a statehouse debate could draw more than 20 people who are not relatives, campaign managers, or custodians.

Although we have plenty of “debate” in America compared to other nations, we have more talking than we have listening. We have too much aggression and too little interaction. Yet too much concern whether a statement is “negative”, and too little concern whether it is true. The internet has made immensely more vigorous human interaction possible, but the freedom to post anonymously has invited irresponsibility: it too often becomes the playground of the Finely Crafted Insult with little informational value.

That is one thing that puzzles me about McCoy’s implied offer to debate me. His website home page features not just one, but two articles about his call for a boycott of Jan Mickelson’s advertisers, because Mickelson made statements about the link between sodomy and disease which, so far as can be determined from the articles McCoy posted, are true. (See my article about it below.)

A politician who chooses to be “offended” enough by statements about him to call for a boycott, but not “offended” enough to explain to anybody what is not true about them, shows no friendliness towards democracy. That hostility towards unrefuted information, combined with power, can become an enemy of freedom itself. I would have thought the way McCoy could have shown his friendship for democracy would be not to first strive for censorship of his critics, but to accept Mickelson’s invitation to come on his radio show and set the record as straight as he can.

America needs more constructive interaction. My documentary shows how the freedoms we enjoy today were birthed by vigorous verbal interaction. See [www.Saltshaker.US](http://www.Saltshaker.US), “1620: When Freedom was Reborn.” Our Pilgrim ancestors understood God’s vision of interaction that doesn’t have to hurt. 1 Corinthians 14:3 says we should “exhort”, or correct – criticize; and “edify”, or build up; in other words, our criticism should be constructive. And “comfort”, which our hearers need a bit of after our criticism.

Not that following this formula perfectly will guarantee that no one will choose to be “offended”. If you can believe it, some people even choose to be offended by the words of He Whom they themselves acknowledge is a God of Love!

One thing I would love to ask McCoy, which perhaps I will finally be able to ask during the debate. It’s a small thing on the great stage of state issues, but I am dying of curiosity about it. In those endless commercials about AIDS, I fell on the floor every time McCoy said “HIV will not keep me from shaking hands with my constituents.” I heard that commercial so many times, the doctor had me install a seat belt on my sofa. Was McCoy actually telling us that he has HIV, but he is willing to accept the risk of giving it to us by shaking our hands? In trying to think of a more favorable interpretation, I considered whether he meant he will not let the possibility of some of his constituents having HIV keep him from shaking hands with them; but I had to rule that out, since that is so much the opposite of which direction the disease would be most likely to travel, because that is the least of the ways he is likely to acquire it, that to mean that would be callous, and I don’t think he is that kind of guy. I apologize if there is some third interpretation which makes sense and is what he meant, but I am dying of curiosity to know what he meant, so I just want to ask. (End of press release)

Now watch that last paragraph: I was teasing Matt a bit, but wow! Did Matt and the Des Moines

Redstar go ballistic on this one, hardly noticing a thing I wrote in the whole rest of the press release! They are convinced that I “fell on the floor” not in astonishment, but laughing. And they are convinced it is I who believe AIDS is spread by shaking hands, just because I asked if that is what Matt meant to imply!

About midnight, the dawning of September 7, I released the press release below which presumes that Matt McCoy’s public statements that another incumbent ought to accept a debate with his opponent indicate his own willingness to debate me.

Somehow Ken got the impression that Matt McCoy had “repeatedly denied” me a chance to debate, so he created a strongly worded denunciation of Matt, and sent a copy to Matt and to me. He emailed it at 4:48 am, which is probably a decent hour in Iraq.

At 8:43 am, Matt responded to Ken:

From: Matthew McCoy <realmccoy@me.com>  
Subject: Re: State Senator Matt McCoy (Ultimate Hypocrite)  
To: "Ken Richards" <kenrichards.iowa@yahoo.com>  
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2010, 8:43 AM

Ken,

Thanks for your email. I was unaware that anyone was organizing or requesting a debate between Republican Candidate for State Senate David Leach and me. I am certain that such a debate can occur assuming that there is a responsible, agreeable and neutral third party that would be willing to host and moderate the debate. To the best of my knowledge there will be several candidate forums that are sponsored by third parties groups in the district, which schedule permitting I plan to attend.

To the best of my knowledge I have never received a formal or informal request from Mr. Leach or his campaign requesting a debate. I am happy to debate Mr. Leach on state issues that are of interest to voters in the upcoming election. Typically if Mr. Leach is requesting a debate a contact to me would be how the process could start and then a representative from our campaigns could discuss forum and moderators for the debate.

Please kindly share my response with the Leach campaign and any recipients of your original email related to the debates. I look forward to your response.

Thanks for your interest.

Matt McCoy  
Ste Senator, District 31  
Des Moines, Iowa

Matt says I never even contacted him about a debate. I had emailed him about 9 hours before, but it is likely that when he responded to Ken he hadn’t yet seen my email, since his was slightly more recent than mine. At 12:34 I found Ken’s email to me – Ken was probably asleep when Matt’s email reached him, so Ken didn’t forward Matt’s response to me till hours later – and I wrote to Ken, “Thanks! Is it slightly premature to say McCoy has already turned down a debate with me? I just sent him my press release late last night, and even then I didn’t address him person to person but just cc’d the press release.”

So it looks like the debate will happen. Oh great. Now I get more of an opportunity that I have even dared pray for. I get to face Goliath.

Below, beginning with my midnight press release, are the events leading up to this.

## The Official Correspondence

proving how women have the right to change their minds – especially a

## whole League of them!

As of October 12, 7 days before the debate, it is to take place at one of Des Moines' most "welcoming" churches – First Unitarian. I had proposed the neutral Fort Des Moines Museum, which is even cheaper, but was told church events have always proved neutral. Written audience questions are to be selected by two ultra liberal groups! Media are only allowed if they will broadcast the entire event unedited – TV news won't be allowed to report highlights! And the League of Women Voters will retain the copyright to all film taken, without letting anyone know what they will allow anyone else to do with it! And I am prohibited from using the event to "promote" my campaign! It is unclear whether individuals will be allowed to bring video cameras.

Here is the complete email record:

From: Dave Leach [mailto:uncle-ed@iowalink.com] Sent: Friday, [September 10](#), 2010 02:09 PM  
To: Jacobs, Jennifer Subject: Re: Pictures

Hi! Is there anyone at the Dsm Register who would want to moderate a debate between Matt McCoy and myself?

Dave Leach 480-3398

From: AcknowledgeHimN2010@Saltshaker.US To: lwvia@live.com; coopercl@mac.com; treasurer@lwvia.org; dbpitz@iowatelecom.net; webmaster@lwvia.org Subject: State Senator Matt McCoy Date: Fri, [10 Sep](#) 2010 16:14:35 -0500

Hi! Would anyone in the League of Women Voters be interested in moderating a debate between myself and Matt McCoy?

Below is his email accepting a debate. It came not to me directly but to Ken Richards, who now is in Iraq but who was a Republican opponent of mine in a 2000 primary, and who posted blistering criticisms of McCoy based on the mistaken assumption that I had asked McCoy for a debate and that he had refused. So here is McCoy's acceptance letter, embedded in an email to me from Ken which begins with Ken's apology.

Dave Leach 480-3398 cell, 244-3711 work

From: Jacobs, Jennifer Sent: Friday, [September 10](#), 2010 7:26 PM To: Hunter, Carol  
Subject: Debate request

Mr. Leach: I don't see the Register becoming involved. My personal take: We like debates (as Friday's editorial indicates), but it's a time and fairness factor. It takes a lot of time just to do the governor and congressional debates we hope to sponsor. And even just looking at metro-area legislative districts, it would be too many for us to handle. And picking just yours doesn't seem quite right. Carol Hunter, politics/state editor

From: Myrna Loehrlein Sent: Monday, [September 13](#), 2010 9:57 AM To: acknowledgehimn2010@saltshaker.us Subject: RE: State Senator Matt McCoy

Mr. Leach, I have forwarded your request to the president of the local league in your area. It would be the local league that would sponsor the debate. She should be contacting you soon.

Thanks, Myrna

From: music Sent: Monday, [September 13](#), 2010 11:58 AM To: Ken Richards  
Subject: Re: Have you set up some debates with Matt yet?

I interpreted Matt's letter as suggesting that I should contact him with a proposed neutral

moderator. So I haven't responded to him yet, since I haven't found one; but I plan to report to him today. Lynn Campbell, of IowaPolitics.com, which has hosted monthly panel discussions with people of all sides, turned me down after double checking with others; because they have a staff of only 3, they don't have the time to make themselves available for statehouse races.

League of Women Voters says their local contact should be contacting me soon.

Carol Hunter of the Register wrote about what Lynn Campbell said: Mr. Leach: I don't see the Register becoming involved. My personal take: We like debates (as Friday's editorial indicates), but it's a time and fairness factor. It takes a lot of time just to do the governor and congressional debates we hope to sponsor. And even just looking at metro-area legislative districts, it would be too many for us to handle. And picking just yours doesn't seem quite right. Carol Hunter, politics/state editor

Other than waiting for LWV, I suppose I could ask Steve Deace, Art Smith of the Polk County Republican Party, and IFPC for suggestions, but I really don't know who else to ask who anyone regards as "neutral". If the formal "neutral" organizations are unavailable, maybe a parliamentarian? Or a couple of pastors, one chosen by each of us?

Or maybe ask Campbell for a template so idiot proof that ordinary folk could administer it?

Dave

From: Dave Leach Sent: Wednesday, [September 15](#), 2010 9:58 AM To: realmccoy@me.com

Subject: Debate

Hi!

Thank you for your willingness to debate me, in your email (below) to me via Ken Richards. Actually I will be thinking of it as a conversation, as much as a debate.

I did not respond immediately to your email because I interpreted your email as suggesting that I contact you with some preliminary proposal. So I have asked potential moderators if they would help, so far without success. Now in looking again at your email I am less sure of an implication that I should propose something, so I write to you with what response I have received, asking for your suggestions.

Lynn Campbell, of IowaPolitics.com, which has hosted monthly panel discussions with people of all sides, turned me down (by phone) after double checking with others; because they have a staff of only 3, they don't have the time to make themselves available for statehouse races.

League of Women Voters says their local contact should be contacting me soon, but no response yet.

From: Matthew McCoy Sent: Wednesday, [September 15](#), 2010 11:57 AM To: Dave Leach Subject: Re: Debate

Dave,

I am well versed in how difficult it is to get anyone to host a debate. I sometimes hear that local chambers will host debates. In our case it would be the South or Westside Chamber. Short of that we will have to wait on the League of Women Voters. I was glad the Des Moines Register gave our race some ink. Let me know if you hear anything from the League of Women Voters.

Matt

From: Ken Richards Sent: Wednesday, [September 15](#), 2010 12:48 PM To: Uncle-Ed Subject: Re: Debate between Dave Leach and Matt McCoy

Dave, I suggest Dr. Alan Koslow who appears on the Deace Group. He is clearly liberal but also a decent fellow who I believe would be very honorable as a moderator. Just my two cents.

Ken

From: Ken Richards Sent: Wednesday, [September 15](#), 2010 12:51 PM To: Dave Leach

Subject: Re: Debate between Dave Leach and Matt McCoy

Dave, forget neutral, I don't think you will get it from most with the possible exception of Dr. Koslow. Why not ask Matt McCoy to have Rekha Basu do it? You have absolutely NOTHING to lose and everything to gain. Ask that questions come from the audience and not the moderator and the moderator only be allowed to control time limits. Besides, you know she will write an article about it anyway so invite her. It is a little bit of a mind game but take charge of it all. Just a thought. Ken

From: Dave Leach Sent: Wednesday, [September 15, 2010](#) 3:31 PM To: [realmccoy@me.com](mailto:realmccoy@me.com)

Here's a copy of my message to Alan Koslow, through his facebook page:

Hi! Matt McCoy has officially agreed to debate me, although I can't help but look forward to it as just as much a discussion. So the next hurdle is finding a "neutral" moderator. The Des Moines Register and Iowapolitics.com has turned us down because they don't have enough staff to take on minor races like state senate, and they couldn't take one without looking like jerks to others who request. League of Women Voters hasn't responded yet.

I presume Matt would trust you as a moderator because you are an eloquent Democrat, and I trust you because you are reasonable.

So, will you help us? I will copy this request to Matt, and you may respond to him as you respond to me by emailing to him at [realmccoy@me.com](mailto:realmccoy@me.com), and me at [AcknowledgeHimN2010@Saltshaker.US](mailto:AcknowledgeHimN2010@Saltshaker.US), or just reply to this message.

Alan R Koslow [September 15, 2010](#) at 11:22pm

Re: Would you referee a debate between me (Dave Leach) and Matt McCoy?

I would be happy to if my schedule allows. Do you have a time and date?

On [9/16/2010](#) 1:05 AM, music (Leach) wrote:

Any date Matt prefers is fine with me, as long as it is not Oct 8-10, when my wife and I will be in Minneapolis for a Bible conference. I will suggest that the 11th to the 17th seems far enough away to finish the planning and promotion, yet close enough to the election that people are paying attention, and yet enough before the election for people to have time to think about it.

Another question is the location: is there a preference for a church? school? synagogue? library? community center?

Dave Leach 480-3398

From: Alan Koslow Sent: Thursday, [September 16, 2010](#) 11:39 PM To: music Cc: music (Leach); [realmccoy@me.com](mailto:realmccoy@me.com) Subject: Re: Moderate Debate

I can suggest Des Moines Amplified Studio. They can sit 25 people and it can be streamed on the internet and you can get an immediate copy of it.

From: Leach Sent: Friday, [September 17, 2010](#) 2:24 PM To: Alan Koslow Subject: Re: Moderate Debate

Interesting suggestion. Although many debates draw far fewer, I am hopeful that seating for 25 would be too small. I suggest as an alternative: I would be willing to rent a meeting room at the Airport Holiday Inn, where they have high speed internet and it could be streamed from there, plus there is a substantial parking lot and lots of signs on a well traveled road making it easy for folks to find. However, if Matt has a strong feeling for where it should be, I will let the choice be his.

We must also wait for word from Matt McCoy whether he approves you, Alan, as our moderator.

Dave Leach

From: Leach Sent: Saturday, September 18, 2010 10:09 AM To: Alan Koslow ; realmccoy@me.com  
Subject: Re: Moderate Debate

Have you heard from Mat, whether he accepts you as a moderator? Your email saying you are willing came Wednesday evening at 9:25; It is now Saturday at 10:03. Just wondering if you've heard.  
Dave Leach

From: Alan Koslow Sent: Sunday, [September 19](#), 2010 9:10 AM To: music Cc: music ;  
realmccoy@me.com Subject: Re: Moderate Debate  
Have not heard from Matt

From: Matthew McCoy Sent: Sunday, [September 19](#), 2010 12:35 PM To: Alan Koslow Cc:  
AcknowledgeHimN2010@Saltshaker.US Subject: Re: Moderate Debate  
Alan, Thank you for your willingness to participate in this important democracy project. I believe it is important to debate the issues.

I am fine with working with any of the dates David suggests. I want to limit our discussion to about an hour and focus on key state issues that related to the future of Iowa.  
Matt

From: Alan Koslow Sent: Sunday, [September 19](#), 2010 2:36 PM To: Matthew McCoy Cc:  
AcknowledgeHimN2010@Saltshaker.US Subject: Re: Moderate Debate  
David what were those dates?

On 9/19/2010 3:13 PM, music wrote:

I suggested any time October 11, Monday, through the 16th, Saturday. (Actually I suggested through the 17th, but maybe Sunday night wouldn't be good.)

So how about Saturday, the 16th? That avoids Sunday, the day even government treats as a "day of rest", and Friday, your Sabbath. Dave

From: Alan Koslow Sent: Sunday, [September 19](#), 2010 9:27 PM To: music Cc: music ;  
realmccoy@me.com ; koslow@heartlandvascular.com Subject: Re: Moderate Debate

If you want people to come or watch, a weekday night would be best. My Sabbath is actually Saturday But I would be free after 1:30 Pm but tied up all morning with services 9AM-12:30 yes we have long services. Then lunch at synagogue. I will check that week what commitments I have and get back to you guys tomorrow Alan.

From: koslow@heartlandvascular.com Sent: Monday, [September 20](#), 2010 9:52 AM To: music ; Alan Koslow Cc: music ; realmccoy@me.com Subject: Re: Moderate Debate  
I checked my calender and I am available any night that week

From: music Sent: Monday, [September 20](#), 2010 1:32 PM To: koslow@heartlandvascular.com ;  
realmccoy@me.com Subject: Re: Moderate Debate

**OK, let's plan on Thursday, October 14. 7pm.**

Darrel Kearney, at the GOP office, agrees with you about Saturday. He says it's a popular family night. Although for statewide events for die-hards, like hearing Governor Palin, it's the night of choice for people who want time to drive from afar and get a hotel.

So apparently the best nights are Tuesday or Thursday. My preference is Thursday. I'll go ahead and put out some preliminary word about it - with the location to be announced later.

**Barbara Boatright, of the League of Women Voters, FINALLY returned my call! She is willing to help; she knows you, and I suggested you might want to collaborate with her. (I don't mean to throw**

any monkeywrenches in this; I mean it only as an option for you.)

Dave Leach

From: music <AcknowledgeHimN2010@Saltshaker.US> Subject: Re: Moderate Debate To: koslow@heartlandvascular.com, realmccoy@me.com Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2010, 3:56 PM

Barbara Boatwright, 262-7402, just called me. The representative of the local League of Women Voters. Whereas we had cleared the week of the 11th to the 16th, and I had thought we had set the 14th, she says the date is not personally convenient for her so she wants it the 21st. That's OK with me but the problem is that she had cleared it with Matt but not with Alan Koslow. When I asked her about it there was no impression in her mind that Matt and I had agreed to have Alan moderate, so she didn't even understand why she needed to clear it with him. She has another moderator she likes. She also said she had left messages for Alan which he hadn't returned yet. After I explained again, she said she would surely be able to "work something out".

There are two things that concern me about this.

First, I like agreements that I am part of to be honored. Besides the slight to those counting on them, there is the confusion from announcements sent out having to be retracted because the changes are not even timely.

Second, the arrangements she proposes are not the "fairness" I would expect of Alan. She proposes University Christian Church for a venue - hardly neutral, since it hosts the Metro congregation. She also proposes three liberal groups hammering out the forum details without the candidate's presence: AMOS, Iowa Interfaith Alliance, and Lincoln Incorporated (professional Black women). She says they are "neutral" because they don't endorse candidates; but I have seen the Iowa Interfaith Alliance school board scorecards. She calls these groups "cosponsors". She says a conservative group would be disqualified from being a "cosponsor" if it endorses candidates.

In no way will I make these issues an obstacle to the debate going forward. Whatever the circumstances, I will face them. I just want to express my concern, and especially to assure Alan, in case you are hesitant to assert yourself in this matter, thinking perhaps I have changed my mind about the value of your participation, that I have not. I hope your reasonableness will help shape these proceedings.

One detail about the format she discussed, I would like to see changed if possible: she doesn't think people walking in off the street should have even a remote chance of participating by asking questions. She sees a couple of people chosen by each candidate asking questions, and the candidates asking each other questions; it seems people would be more motivated to come if there were some chance to participate, and it would seem this could be done by having people write their questions on a card and drawing at least 3 or 4 out of a hat. But again, this is not a deal killer for me. Just a suggestion. Just a courtesy to the audience.

Dave Leach

From: music <AcknowledgeHimN2010@Saltshaker.US> To: "Ken Richards" Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2010, 3:57 PM

maybe we should stay with Thursday - it's just that no school will be available unless we schedule for Tuesday. Dorothy pointed out that the parents schedule conferences one at a time, so only a few would be involved that late. Actually since there is no school that day, maybe that would make it easier for some to come. There is a charge to use school auditoriums; I can't find out what it is yet.

The Fort Des Moines church is rented for another group; the museum is available for \$120, seating max 112, overflow in another room if we bring our own monitors.

South Side Library: only has 40 chairs, and the room has to be empty by 8. **Three liberal groups, AMOS, Interfaith Alliance, Lincoln Incorporated (Afro American Professional Women) are the three co-sponsors Barbara Boatright named.**

News flash! The lady from League of Women Voters, Boatright, called back; that entire week is not personally convenient for her, so she wants it Thurs the 21st! She had already checked it out with Matt McCoy and he's OK with it. But she HADN'T checked it out with Alan Koslow.

From: Christian Zenti Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2010 1:38 AM To: AcknowledgeHimN2010@Saltshaker.US ; music@iowatelecom.net Subject: Senator McCoy

Dear Mr. Leach-Hello. My name is Christian Zenti. I am working for Senator McCoy and handling his schedule and all appointments as well as emails and communications. Please feel free to contact me going forward as I will work with you on the debate.

Thank you. Christian Zenti

From: koslow@heartlandvascular.com Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2010 9:31 AM To: realmccoy@me.com ; music Cc: Alan Koslow Subject: Re: Moderate Debate

**I spoke with Mrs. Boatwright and she is not sure how or when she tried to reach me. Her story changed three times during our conversation. She said she thought I was sponsoring the debate on the 14th. Then she said I was organizing it. Then she said she has nothing to do with organizing the debate itself but only arranging the time, co-sponsors and the place. Deb Turner at 710-6168 is in charge of the in debate details.**

I am OK with 10/21 to moderate. I put a call into Deb, Barbara told me she was already lining up moderators. I think Dave and Matt we need to sit down and agree on format and how to get questions. I have no problem with questions being given on cards and I ask two questions from each side. I think that there could be a problem with each candidate asking the question of the other. The two of you could each submit four questions for the other and i would ask as many as I can depending upon time.

From: music <AcknowledgeHimN2010@Saltshaker.US> Subject: Fw: Moderate Debate To: koslow@heartlandvascular.com, realmccoy@me.com, christian.zenti@gmail.com, "Alan Koslow" <koslow@mchsi.com> Date: Thursday, September 23, 2010, 12:47 PM

Hi! Mz. Boatright called me again, and wants to change from the 21st to the 19th. The 14th had been agreed to, then she said she has a personal conflict and now wants it the 21st, and now she says the "league of women voters" has a conflict and now wants the 19th.

Also she is emphatic, this time, that she doesn't want Alan Koslow involved! Last time she said she would "work something out" about the fact that Matt and I had previously accepted Alan. Well, I guess she has! She says someone else, who by the way I have not heard from yet, says she wants a moderator "she is familiar with", and **"the candidates can't pick the moderator. If you want the League involved, you will have to accept our moderator."** She asked me if I want the League to just cancel its involvement? I answered that I would check with you, Matt (or Christian) and Alan, and let you decide.

I made an agreement with Alan, with which Matt concurred, and I like to keep agreements as well as I reasonably can. So on the strength of that consideration, if it were up to me I would go with our first choice, Alan. However, if you, Alan, think the League will do better, or if you have lost interest, or if Matt would rather switch to the League, I'll go along with the switch. But if Alan is still willing, it will have to be Matt who dismisses Alan, not me.

I am also disconcerted by Boatright's ever changing stories, as Alan described them. When she originally called me I explained that during the two week wait for her to return my call, Matt and I had made arrangements with Alan. At that time, Boatright said she would work with that. The next time she called she had forgotten that promise, and said "we'll work something out". Now she again has forgotten that promise, and says "the candidates can't pick the moderator."

I am also disconcerted by her ever changing dates. How are we going to put out announcements

to our supporters, if we can't tell from one day to the next if she will call with another change? The sooner she is no longer involved, the sooner people can put it on their calendars.

I certainly don't trust her grasp of the word "neutral". She thinks there are no more neutral halls than at University Christian Church, or the Unitarian Church. She said they only charge \$150. She also said she would plan on a crowd of from 1 to 100. I told her the Fort Des Moines Museum holds 112, with additional overflow rooms that can be set up with monitors, and they charge \$120. **Her answer was that she has never seen a problem in the past with the two churches holding neutral events.** Partisans who pretend to be neutral are the most exasperating partisans. Like news reporters, for example. I would think a synagogue would be much more neutral.

Well, that is my report of the facts, and that is my recommendation. Now I will leave it to you, Matt and Alan, (or Christian, representing Matt), to work it out between you. Just let me know. And especially, I hope we can finalize a date. It annoys me that Boatright has no email address, so that I can't copy this to her.

Dave Leach 480-3398

From: Dan & Donna Holman Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2010 2:50 PM To: music  
Subject: Re: Fw: Moderate Debate

A woman, especially a league of women, have the right to change their minds and their stories.  
dan

From: Alan Koslow Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2010 4:05 PM To: music Cc: music ;  
koslow@heartlandvascular.com ; realmccoy@me.com ; christian.zenti@gmail.com Subject: Re: Fw:  
Moderate Debate

I am ok if not moderator. The fourteenth would be a bad night anyway since it is world food prize night and many will be at ceremony including me.

From: Christian Zenti Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2010 4:45 PM To: music ; music Cc:  
realmccoy@me.com ; Alan Koslow Subject: Re: Fw: Moderate Debate

David- We have agreed to do only the debate with the League of Women Voters and will hold to this agreement. **The League of Women Voters has consistently presented a fair and good faith effort in arranging a neutral debate and location.** Barbara has spoken to me today about the League's request for a date change. We will agree to the date change as it is more than 3 weeks out from the debate.

Thank you. Christian Zenti

On [Thu, Sep 23](#), 2010 at 6:08 PM, music <AcknowledgeHimN2010@saltshaker.us> wrote:

All right. Do you think we can regard this date as final?

Dave Leach

From: Christian Zenti Sent: Friday, [September 24](#), 2010 10:14 AM To: music Cc: Matthew McCoy  
Subject: Re: Fw: Moderate Debate

David- Pending the League's confirmation of the location, hopefully today, we can regard the date as final. Christian

# Rules!

From: Deborah Ann Turner Sent: Sunday, **October 10**, 2010 9:41 PM To: acknowledgehimn2010@saltshaker.us Subject: LWV Senate Debate October 19, 2010

Dear Mr. Leach,

Please find attached the information regarding the Oct. 19th debate.

You will also receive hard copies of these papers in the mail at your campaign headquarters.

I look forward to hearing from you and feel free to contact me or Barb regarding any problems or concerns.

Sincerely, Deborah Ann Turner, MD President LWV Des Moines Metro

October 8, 2010  
Leach for Senate  
137 E. Leach  
Des Moines, IA 50315

Dear Mr. Leach;

The LWV Des Moines Metro looks forward to sponsoring the debate between you and your opponent, Matt McCoy for Iowa Senate District 31. **The co-sponsors of the debate are the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa and The Alliance for Retired Americans.**

As you know the League is a unique, **nonpartisan** organization that is a recognized force in molding political leaders, shaping public policy, and promoting informed citizen participation at all levels of government. Our organization has three purposes - to foster education in citizenship, to promote forums and public discussion of civic reforms and to support needed legislation. **These principles are shared with the Interfaith Alliance and The Alliance for Retired Americans of Des Moines.**

The Debate Details are as follows

Date: Oct. 19, 2010  
Time: 7:00 – 8:30 pm  
Location: First Unitarian Church 1800 Bell Avenue  
Doors Open: 6:00 pm (to the public)

The debate moderator is David Walker, Distinguished Professor of Law at Drake Law School and past Dean of the Law School. He will also be introducing the candidates. Therefore we are asking you to forward to us a 15 second introduction for Professor Walker's use.

The goals of this debate are to give each candidate an opportunity to express his views on issues that are important to citizens of Senate District 31 and the state of Iowa. Our commitment to you is to hold the debate in an atmosphere which fosters civil discourse and is devoid of active campaigning or negative discourse in the debate theatre.

Attached you will find a copy of the debate format, rules of debate, and the debate flyer. Also enclosed is a letter of agreement to be signed by you which affirms your agreement with the plan for debate. We would appreciate your signing same and returning it in the enclosed envelope.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Barbara Boatwright, LWV Candidate Forum Liaison, 515-262-7402 or me.

We are looking forward to an informative and enjoyable evening.

Sincerely,

Deborah Ann Turner, M.D., J.D.

President LWV Des Moines Metro  
515-710-6168 (cell) 515-277-6505 (home)  
turnerdat@hotmail.com  
(4107 Cottage Grove is the address in the phone book matching that phone number and name)

RULES OF DEBATE AND DEBATE SITE MANAGEMENT  
THESE RULES ARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDELINES AND PRINCIPLES SET  
FORTH BY THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS UNITED STATES (LWVUS)

PREDEBATE

Candidates will be provided with a table in the foyer to display and provide campaign information for the public- flyers, stickers, brochures, yard signs etc.

Each candidate will have access to the site two hours before the debate to check on the lighting, acoustics, debate hall setup and to prepare their information tables.

The public will be asked to sign in and the list of attendees will be supplied to each candidate.

Persons not wishing to sign in will not be required to do so.

DEBATE

The moderator will introduce the candidates using a 15-second introduction provided by the candidates.

Candidates will be introduced by title. Thereafter, "Mr." will be used.

The winner of a coin toss on the day of the debate will have first choice of podium position.

There will be a coin toss to determine candidates' order of taking the first question and order of closing statements

**A prescreened group of questions from each sponsoring organization will be presented by the moderator to the candidates.**

**Questions will not be forwarded to the candidates prior to debate.**

[#1: with two liberal groups selecting all the questions, they will throw him all softballs; McCoy doesn't need to see the questions ahead of time because he is mentally one with all their rhetoric.

[#2: Considering how stacked LWV and McCoy are determined to keep this deck, and considering the alliance McCoy enjoys with those who are deciding the questions, can anyone really trust them not to brief McCoy on the questions ahead of time?]

**Audience questions will be collected throughout the first hour of debate and screened for clarity, repetition, and appropriateness by volunteers from the sponsoring organizations prior to presentation.**

No campaign banners, signs, literature, handouts or other campaign paraphernalia will be allowed in the debate hall.

The audience will be asked to refrain from applauding or in other ways demonstrating support or nonsupport for a candidate.

The candidates will remain behind their podium/lectern or table at all times during the debate. Stools will be provided.

A pitcher of water and a glass will available to each candidate.

The candidates will bring no notes or props. Each candidate will be provided with a legal pad and pens for taking notes during the debate.

Time limits will be strictly observed.

A timekeeper will hold cards, visible to the speaker and moderator indicating how much time remains.

When the "stop card" is shown, the speaker must end his speech within 10 seconds.

The moderator will have the responsibility for enforcing time limits.

The moderator will have the authority to interrupt the proceedings if necessary to enforce the ground rules and format that were agreed to by the candidates and sponsoring organizations.

The moderator may restate the question.

**The moderator may interrupt the candidates if they believe the candidates are straying to far from the subject.**

The candidates will not interrupt one another.

**The candidates' closing statements should be significantly related to the matters debated previously.**

[In other words, all the questions will be presented by the two liberal “co-sponsors”. The two “co-sponsors” will thus determine what subjects may be addressed. If I stray from those liberal-chosen subjects, the moderator will cut me off. And if I address any other topic in my closing argument, the moderator will cut me off!]

Because there is no opportunity for rebuttal following the closing statements, candidates should refrain from personal attacks or charges.

**No flash cameras and no motor driven cameras will be used during the debate.**

**If press is present they will be allowed to take notes during the debate but not videotape.**

**(This may be modified if a media source agrees to film the debate in its entirety, show it only in its entirety, and acknowledge the rites to the film belong to the League of Women Voters, and that no part of the debate may be used in campaign promotion. If a media source makes a request to tape the proceedings this will be agreed upon by all parties to the debate prior to October 19, 2010.)**

[This grammar is ambiguous. It could mean only that if someone broadcasts the entire event, they must post two notices: LWV owns the rights, and no “part”, or excerpt, of the film “may be used in campaign promotion”. But “no part” more often means the entirety of the film can’t be used, either. And since I am asked to approve these rules, I am asked to agree not to post the entirety of the debate online, or if someone else does, to give a link to it.

[Another problem is that no media may come of whom both parties disapprove. This gives McCoy the power to reject any and all media, which I perceive he is likely to do because as Ken Richards points out later, these arrangements show he fears the debate; he wants as few as possible to see it, and wants to keep me from using its content.

**[Why does LWV want the "rites to the film"? All that can accomplish is to cloud the availability of the film to those who take it.**

The reporters would then need to know ahead of time what rights you would extend to them to use it, who within LWV will make the decision, what appeal process exists within LWV to review an adverse decision, and how long it will take for these processes to play out. For a reporter on deadline, these are unreasonable uncertainties. It is reasonable for you to ask for a copy of the film, which itself is more than TV news reporters will normally grant;

you might even ask for second publication rights, if you have any thought of rebroadcasting it elsewhere or even archiving it. Or making it available to Matt and me. (Not that I am asking for that.) I see no good coming of your demand for rights to the film; and unspecified rights at that. You do not even say exactly what rights you demand.]

A press area will be provided near the entrance to the debate for arrival and departure photographs of the candidates and interviews after the debate if the candidates wish to speak to the press.

#### DEBATE FORMAT for SENATE DISTRICT 31 DEBATE OCTOBER 19, 2010

Welcome and introductions of Moderator by League President

Brief review of pertinent Debate rules

Introduction of candidates by Moderator

Brief review of debate format by Moderator

**No opening statements will be given.**

Moderator will address questions to candidates.

The first question will be addressed to Candidate A – the candidate winning the initial coin toss

Candidate A will be given 2 minutes to answer the questions Candidate B will then be given 2 minutes to answer/respond to the question A 30 second rebuttal will be allowed for Candidate A.

The next question will be directed initially to Candidate B and questions will continue to be alternated in this manner.

Each candidate will be allowed a 3 minute closing statement (see rules of debate).

The full allotted time per question does not need to be utilized.

#### CANDIDATE DEBATE AGREEMENT FORM

Debate: Senate debate for Senate District 31  
Date: Oct. 19, 2010  
Time: 7:00 – 8:30 pm  
Location: First Unitarian Church 1800 Bell Avenue  
Participants: Matt McCoy  
David Leach  
Moderator: David Walker, Professor Law

Sponsors: LWV Des Moines Metro  
Co-Sponsors: Interfaith Alliance of Iowa  
The Alliance for Retired Americans

To The League of Women Voters Des Moines Metro:

I have read the information regarding the planned debate between Matthew McCoy and David Leach on October 19, candidates for Senate District 31 in the State of Iowa.

I agree to the provisions set out in the confirmation letter, the Rules of Debate and Debate Site Management, and Debate Format.

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Candidate Signature

Date

---

League President

Date

# Post-Rules Correspondence

From: Leach Sent: Tuesday, [October 12](#), 2010 12:51 AM To: turnerdat@hotmail.com  
Cc: koslow@heartlandvascular.com ; realmccoy@me.com ; christian.zenti@gmail.com ; Alan Koslow  
Subject: Concerns with October 19 Debate Arrangements

Hi! Thank you for proceeding on this project. I was just about to worry that it had been forgotten, when I received your attachments.

There is only one part that I wonder what you mean:

**No flash cameras and no motor driven cameras will be used during the debate. If press is present they will be allowed to take notes during the debate but not videotape. (This may be modified if a media source agrees to film the debate in its entirety, show it only in its entirety, and acknowledge the rites to the film belong to the League of Women Voters, and that no part of the debate may be used in campaign promotion. If a media source makes a request to tape the proceedings this will be agreed upon by all parties to the debate prior to October 19, 2010.)**

You seem to mean that video cameras may be used by non-press folks, so long as they record on hard drives, or direct to computers, and not on tape. If this is what you mean, it is puzzling; I might theorize your concern is noise, except that cameras using tape are quieter than florescent lights.

I appreciate the deliverance from the local TV crew that shows up in the middle, turns on their bright floodlights, captures 5 minutes, and noisily retreats. But it is standard procedure for networks who broadcast entire debates to also take excerpts for their news stories and analysis. I can't think of a clear reason for interfering with this SOP.

I will guess that "no part of the debate may be used in campaign promotion" is aimed at taking excerpts for TV commercials. If so, I appreciate that; TV ads are too short to include context, virtually requiring that statements be taken out of context.

**But statements will be made about what Matt and I say, and it is absolutely vital that there exist somewhere a record of exactly what we said, available to both of us, so that if either of us feel misquoted we can resort to it to defend ourselves. Your rules must not be interpreted in such a way that makes such a record impractical. No one wants the utter chaos of charges and countercharges about what we said, without any means of documenting what we actually said. You and your moderator are lawyers. Who would conduct a trial without a record? You are familiar with adversarial forums, and will surely appreciate the importance of an accurate record, available to both parties, in any such forum, for the use of sequels to that forum.**

**Why does LWV want the "rites to the film" (I trust you mean "rights")? All that can accomplish is to cloud the availability of the film to those who take it.** The reporters would then need to know ahead of time what rights you would extend to them to use it, who within LWV will make the decision, what appeal process exists within LWV to review an adverse decision, and how long it will take for these processes to play out. For a reporter on deadline, these are unreasonable uncertainties. It is reasonable for you to ask for a copy of the film, which itself is more than TV news

reporters will normally grant; you might even ask for second publication rights, if you have any thought of rebroadcasting it elsewhere or even archiving it. Or making it available to Matt and me. (Not that I am asking for that.) I see no good coming of your demand for rights to the film; and unspecified rights at that. You do not even say exactly what rights you demand.

I believe the public who cannot come physically to the debate has the right to see it; not just to read it, and not just to hear it - for the same reason a jury which has seen facial expressions, etc., is deferred to by appeals courts as having greater access to what happened at trial than the justices who can only read the transcript. I can understand if no news crews step forward to the task, but if any are, why would it be LWV who would discourage them? If no news cameras as expensive as a house can come, then **consumer cameras should be allowed to film the event for posting, in its entirety, on the internet at sites like Metacafe. And neither Matt nor I should be restricted from giving people the link - that should not be interpreted as being "used in campaign promotion."**

OK, one more concern. **Is it impossible to allow a less liberal co-sponsor to help sift through those audience questions?** You have the Alliance of Retired Americans, which Wikipedia says is a collection of trade unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO; and the Interfaith Alliance, with its February 16 letter to legislators in support of same gender marriage, signed by 167 clergy! I had suggested to Barbara Boatright adding, for balance, IFPC, the Iowa Family Policy Center. You don't call the current arrangements, held at the First Unitarian Church with its GLBT "Interweave", "neutral", do you? Remember that before Barbara Boatright squeezed the LWV into moderating this debate exclusively, Matt and I had agreed on having Alan Koslow moderate for us. Barbara initially agreed to be involved in assisting Alan, and later insisted on replacing him. If you can't work with a conservative for balance, even if you added Alan Koslow as a co-sponsor, to sift through those questions, there would be **someone there I know and trust.** [I don't necessarily trust him to be "neutral", but I trust him to be reasonable.]

Dave Leach cell 480-3398

## I Called Reporters Wednesday Morning, October 13

Context: Deb Turner's rules weren't emailed until late Sunday, so that I didn't see them until Monday morning, 8 days before the debate. I emailed my questions and concerns to her late Monday night, so she presumably saw them Tuesday morning. Yet as of Wednesday morning, 6 days before the debate, she hadn't responded. So I appealed to media, with copies to Turner, moderator David Walker, McCoy, and his representative Christian Zenti. My goal was to shame them into responding and conceding accommodations of the most egregious irregularities, and to put them under the time pressure of responding to reporters. Even with this, Turner did not respond to me until Thursday evening, and even then never answered a single question, but only wrote to demand I sign the agreement by the following noon! As it turned out, the only media response was from Jennifer Jacobs of the Des Moines Register, whose article was overall somewhat helpful but her opening sentence butchered my position into saying I think it's "unfair" that I have to "stick to the subject"!

The response of readers to stuff like that is ironic. A majority are jaded enough to know there is more to the story presented by "mainstream media". Yet these same jaded readers who say these things to each other, refrain from any actions bold enough to make themselves the target of such media distortion, and consistent with that they will not take my campaign seriously because I "allow" media to distort what I do, (by taking the Biblical positions, and saying the Bible words, that we all know the media froths at the mouth over), even when they know me and agree with me!

### Notes on Reporters' Reactions

When I called reporters I asked them: "Have you ever heard of a debate where TV reporters

were not allowed to broadcast highlights, and where the event organizers claimed the rights to any film taken, and where the candidates must agree not to use any content from the debate in their campaign promotions? Have you ever heard of a debate where no opening statements are allowed, where all questions are created by two organizations strongly sympathetic politically to one of the candidates, where any straying from the authorized subjects by the other candidate will be cut off by the moderator, and where the closing statement must also be limited to the subjects raised by those questions?!

I called the TV5 newswire. "Weird" was Danny's reaction. He said "I'll pass this to the afternoon producer and we'll decide whether to do something between now and Tuesday."

Jennifer Jacobs, Des Moines Register, asked me to email documentation to her. Although Senator Grassley had just stepped into her office, she continued asking me to articulate why I think they are doing this to me. She even prompted me with an example response. I then said "the kinds of things I say are the kinds of speech which Matt and his supporters want to suppress." She said, "good quote."

WHO-TV assignment editor Matt Baker said "and you AGREE to that? Sounds like you would be agreeing to a gauntlet. No, we just wouldn't cover it. We always retain the rights to our own film." News Coverage

After I laid out those points, I asked if they would like me to email documentation. They did. So I sent them the following:

Hi! Here's the documentation for the arrangements of the debate scheduled Oct 19 between me and Matt McCoy.

Summary:

- <> TV reporters are not allowed to broadcast highlights
- <> the event organizers claim the rights to any film taken
- <> the candidates must agree not to use any content from the debate in their campaign promotions (I requested clarification of this detail from LWV but have no response yet)
- <> no opening statements are allowed
- <> all questions are created by two organizations strongly sympathetic politically to my opponent (after the first hour, the audience may submit questions, but these two organizations still select them)
- <> any straying from the authorized subjects by the other candidate will be cut off by the moderator
- <> my closing statement must also be limited to the subjects raised by those questions
- <> an accurate video record of the event is not allowed (I have asked clarification about this detail also, but if it is allowed, it will have to clear high hurdles)

Contents below: the League of Women Voters president's letter to me (which included the attachments to this email)

My letter in response to her

More details: selections from her rules, with my analysis

More details, not below: see [www.Saltshaker.US/Leach2010](http://www.Saltshaker.US/Leach2010)

<<http://www.Saltshaker.US/Leach2010>> click "news", then "debate". Includes the complete record of emails between me and Matt, and our previously agreed to moderator, Alan Koslow. Also includes what I had written in response to McCoy's Sept 1 Letter to the Editor, prior to his formal agreement to debate me. Among other things this shows that each time I was contacted by LWV with a new change in plans, they had already talked it over with McCoy first.

Dave Leach cell 480-3398

(Next, I sent them Deborah Ann Turner's Sunday night letter to me, and my Monday night letter to her, which you can read earlier in this article. Then:)

## More details: selections from her rules, with my analysis

"LWV Leach Letter" excerpt: "...As you know the League is a unique, **nonpartisan** organization that is a recognized force in molding political leaders...."

[Amazing! The word Barbara Boatright used in her calls to me was that these arrangements are "neutral"! They eased their way in to our debate plans, displaced the moderator upon which Matt and I had previously agreed, changed the date twice, refused a neutral location like the Fort Des Moines Museum and insisted on First Unitarian whose website features its GLBT "Interweave" group, picked two liberal groups to produce all the questions with rules that I cannot stray from them - not even in my closing statement, and I don't get an opening statement! And they call themselves "neutral" and "nonpartisan"! With these rules, they have shed all pretense of being either "neutral" or "nonpartisan", and yet they don't even know it! They still use the words as if they somehow apply!]

From "LWV Rules of Debate..." "A prescreened group of questions from each sponsoring organization will be presented by the moderator to the candidates. ...Audience questions will be collected throughout the first hour of debate and screened for clarity, repetition, and appropriateness by volunteers from the sponsoring organizations prior to presentation.... The moderator may interrupt the candidates if they believe the candidates are straying to far from the subject. ....The candidates' closing statements should be significantly related to the matters debated previously."

[In other words, all the questions will be presented by the two liberal "co-sponsors". The two "co-sponsors" will thus determine what subjects may be addressed. If I stray from those liberal-chosen subjects, the moderator will cut me off. And if I address any other topic in my closing argument, the moderator will cut me off! And I don't get an opening statement!]

From "LWV Rules of Debate": "No flash cameras and no motor driven cameras will be used during the debate. If press is present they will be allowed to take notes during the debate but not videotape. (This may be modified if a media source agrees to film the debate in its entirety, show it only in its entirety, and acknowledge the rites to the film belong to the League of Women Voters, and that no part of the debate may be used in campaign promotion. If a media source makes a request to tape the proceedings this will be agreed upon by all parties to the debate prior to October 19, 2010.)"

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uncertainties. It is reasonable for you to ask for a copy of the film, which itself is more than TV news reporters will normally grant; you might even ask for second publication rights, if you have any thought of rebroadcasting it elsewhere or even archiving it. Or making it available to Matt and me. (Not that I am asking for that.) I see no good coming of your demand for rights to the film; and unspecified rights at that. You do not even say exactly what rights you demand.]

From LWV Rules of Debate.." "No opening statements will be given."

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[#1: with two liberal groups selecting all the questions, they will throw him all softballs; McCoy doesn't need to see the questions ahead of time because he is mentally one with all their rhetoric.

[#2: Considering how stacked LWV and McCoy are determined to keep this deck, and considering the alliance McCoy enjoys with those who are deciding the questions, can anyone really trust them not to brief McCoy on the questions ahead of time?]

Next: pithy analysis by Ken Richards (I am confident you have his permission to quote him; he was my opponent in a Republican primary in 2000 - he won, has been in Iraq, and is all over the Register comment streams after social issue articles. It was his analysis of Matt McCoy's Sept 1 letter bawling out Congressman King for refusing to debate his opponent, that led to the Oct 19 debate.

From: Ken Richards [kenrichards.iowa@yahoo.com](mailto:kenrichards.iowa@yahoo.com) Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2010 1:41 AM  
To: Leach Subject: Re: Concerns with October 19 Debate Arrangements

Dave, I think **they are terrified of you and were not content with changing the questions and now want to bottle up things so this debate can never be heard by anyone not in attendance. I think you need to tell Matt McCoy that he needs to man up and stop hiding behind these women. He is obviously very afraid to debate you and wants to put so many conditions on it that you would reject the debate and if that failed wants to make sure you will be unable to use his responses in any way.** What a joke of a politician and he is so afraid it begs the question if he is fit for office. He is such a coward! Ken

Media Coverage:

<http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2010/10/13/des-moines-candidate-who-opposes-abortion-gay-marriage-feels-targeted-by-rules-of-upcoming-debate/>

## **Des Moines candidate who opposes abortion, gay marriage feels targeted by rules of upcoming debate**

Blog post by Jennifer Jacobs • [jejacobs@dmreg.com](mailto:jejacobs@dmreg.com) • October 13, 2010

Rules of an upcoming debate that prohibit the candidates from straying too far off the topic are

unfair, a Republican candidate for the Iowa Senate said today.

A debate between Republican Dave Leach and Democratic Sen. Matt McCoy is set for Oct. 19, organized by the League of Women Voters United. The two candidates are running for a Des Moines seat in Senate District 31.

One rule says the moderator may interrupt if candidates go too far off the subject.

Leach, an anti-abortion activist who also opposes homosexuality, said he feels like the rules are targeted at him.

“The kind of things I say are the kinds of speech that Matt and his supporters want suppressed,” Leach said.

Another one of the rules prohibits videotaping or motor-driven cameras, including by reporters. Leach said this will prohibit TV reporters from broadcasting highlights.

“The rules are designed to make it impossible for any accurate record to be made of the event,” Leach said. “You don’t want to go to an adversarial forum and not have any record made. You need to be able to verify what was said.”

Another rule will prohibit either candidate from using snippets from the debate in their campaign promotions. Leach said he objects to that, as well.

The debate is co-sponsored by the Iowa Interfaith Alliance, which has advocated for gay rights, and the Alliance for Retired Americans. McCoy is openly gay.

The list of rules from Deborah Ann Turner, president of the League of Women Voters Des Moines, says the rules are in accordance with guidelines and principles set forth by the league. The rules include:

“No flash cameras and no motor driven cameras will be used during the debate.”

“If press is present they will be allowed to take notes during the debate but not videotape. This may be modified if a media source agrees to film the debate in its entirety, show it only in its entirety, and acknowledge the rites to the film belong to the League of Women Voters, and that no part of the debate may be used in campaign promotion.”

“The moderator may interrupt the candidates if they believe the candidates are straying too far from the subject.”

“The candidates’ closing statements should be significantly related to the matters debated previously. Because there is no opportunity for rebuttal following the closing statements, candidates should refrain from personal attacks or charges.”

The debate is 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Oct. 19 at the First Unitarian Church, 1800 Bell Ave. in Des Moines.

My comment posted after her story: **Let me clarify that first sentence. It's not unfair to make candidates stick to the subject, however difficult that is in practice because of the subjectivity of what is "on the subject". What is unfair is that the subjects are all selected by the two "co-sponsors", who are in McCoy's political family. That, combined with the rule that my closing statement must stick to the same subjects as the questions, and the rule that I have no opening statement, prohibits me from talking about what I believe is important to voters, which liberals may not agree are important to voters.**

Neither did I object to being prohibited from "using snippets from the debate in...campaign promotions." My concern is the implication that I can't even give people a link to an online post of the complete unedited debate; nor can I refer to the record to prove what I actually said, in case I am accused of saying something else. However, this is only an implication of the rules; I asked for clarification yesterday, but have not received an answer yet.

<http://content.usatoday.com/topics/article/People/Athletes/NFL/Matt+McCoy/08UL2Gvd72cif/1>  
22h 54m ago [Des Moines Register](#)

## Des Moines candidate who opposes abortion, gay marriage feels targeted by rules of upcoming debate



Rules of an upcoming debate that prohibit the candidates from straying too far [sic] the topic are unfair, a Republican candidate for the Iowa Senate said today. A debate between Republican Dave Leach and Democratic Sen. Matt McCoy is set for Oct. 19

[Comment: Great. The biggest distortion of Jennifer's article, is the only thing copied into USA Today. At least the story is so terse that people will recognize it as a headline, with more to the story after the headline. Maybe the inaccuracy of the grammar will alert some to the possibility that the reporter might have accuracy issues with content, too.]

## David Walker, Moderator, a Drake Law Professor specializing in "Conflict Resolution", declines to help resolve this conflict

FROM: Leach to David Walker Oct 13, 3:03pm

cc: Matt McCoy, Christian Zenti, Alan Koslow (the first moderator to which McCoy had agreed), Deborah Ann Turner (League of Women Voters president), and several media  
David Walker, Drake Law Professor  
Moderator of Oct 19 Leach/McCoy debate

Hi!

I appreciate that you have a strong interest in conflict resolution, because those are the kind of skills needed to iron out the problems in the League of Women Voters arrangements for the debate next Tuesday between me and Senator Matt McCoy, which you are scheduled to moderate.

Did you have anything to do with those arrangements? Have you ever HEARD of arrangements like those? Has even the LWV conducted previous debates under rules like those?

"Weird", was the response of one TV news assignment editor to my summary of them. Another said "you're going to agree to THAT? You might as well agree to a gauntlet. No, we won't cover it, if we have to give rights to our own film to someone else!"

I don't go to the media as a first resort. But these rules did not come to me until 8 days before the debate; I emailed my concerns to Deb Turner yesterday morning, and have not heard back from her; time is short, and these conflicts need to be resolved quickly! I hope you were not part of crafting these rules, and that you will share my sense of urgency about correcting them.

Here's what I sent a few media, summarizing the problems, and then documenting them:  
Dave Leach 480-3398 (copy of media letter follows)

FROM Walker to Leach, Wednesday, Oct 13, 5:38pm

Dear Mr. Leach:

I was not involved in making the arrangements that you enclose. I have agreed to serve as Moderator and have intended to adhere to the rules provided. I would have to refer you to the League of Women Voters and others involved in agreeing to and arranging for the debate next Tuesday.

Sincerely,  
David Walker

[Comment: Notwithstanding his self professed specialty in "conflict resolution"]

on his Drake University web page, and even though he is scheduled to carry out these rules, he sees no “conflict” worth “resolving” here. He does not answer my question whether he has ever seen such rules before, but he answers only my question whether he shares responsibility for their creation. No, he does not. Yet he remains committed to working with them, which he wouldn't, if he saw anything wrong with them. So he might as well have helped create them, for his support of them.]

From: David S Walker Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2010 8:58 AM To: music Cc: Deborah Ann Turner Subject: FW: Leach/McCoy LWV Senate Debate October 19, 2010

Dear Mr. Leach:

It appears that the message that I sent to you yesterday by means of “reply” failed to go through, evidently on account of a bad address. Perhaps it made it through to you, [it did; see above] but just in case I am resending, by means of “forwarding,” to you an Dr. Turner.

Unfortunately I must be out of town this weekend and so will not be able to participate in discussions until next Monday evening. I will be able to check my email from time to time, and I will monitor developments that way. Sincerely, David Walker

(From my brother, Dr. Rob Leach, a chiropractor/researcher/textbook author from Starkville, MS)

Dave, very proud of you for staying the course!

My two cents, have at least 3 of your supporters/Christian friends tape this using their digital cameras from different areas in the audience, indiscreetly so that there is no justification for them turning off their cameras or being asked to leave.

As an alternative, even my Blackberry has a “Microphone” function and can be used to tape a two hour event, so one of your friends might have this digitally taped for you and that can certainly be discreet.

Still praying,

(My answer: I include Rob's note because it is what others are probably thinking. In the Blackberry age, how meaningful is it to censor video anyway? The reason I haven't treated this as a credible option is that you cannot have good, clear, easy to understand at a low volume sound, unless you can get a microphone within a couple of feet of the speaker(s). Most listeners, listening to a web post of 90 minutes of bad video and bad sound, would lose interest after a few seconds, and the rest after a minute.)

## My Detailed Counter-proposal: Signed, Amended Rules

My cover letter:

**From:** [music](#)

**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 12:58 PM

**To:** [david.walker@drake.edu](mailto:david.walker@drake.edu) ; [turnerdat@hotmail.com](mailto:turnerdat@hotmail.com) ; [realmccoy@me.com](mailto:realmccoy@me.com) ; [christian.zenti@gmail.com](mailto:christian.zenti@gmail.com) ; [koslow@heartlandvascular.com](mailto:koslow@heartlandvascular.com)

**Cc:** [stevendeace@aol.com](mailto:stevendeace@aol.com) ; \* [Mickelson Jan](#) ; \* [Iowa Independent Jason](#) ; [news@myabc5.com](mailto:news@myabc5.com) ; \* [WHO TV](#) ; [jejacobs@dmreg.com](mailto:jejacobs@dmreg.com) ; \* [Lohr Kathy](#) (National Public Radio); \* [Thomas, KC Star Judy](#)

**Subject:** Signed, amended debate rules

To: League of Women Voters, debate organizers; David Walker, moderator; Matt McCoy, my opponent in Iowa Senate District 31.

RE the October 19 debate between me and Senator Matt McCoy, whose rules were

emailed to me late Sunday night; I emailed my concerns about them to the League of Women Voters late Monday night, but have not yet heard back. (Details: [www.Saltshaker.US/Leach2010](http://www.Saltshaker.US/Leach2010) , click "news", then "debate".)

Attached is the debate agreement concerning October 19, next Tuesday night, signed by me, as amended by me in a way I am willing to sign. As in bill drafts which amend existing law, underlines identify what I have added, and strikethroughs identify what I deleted. I hope you will agree to these changes. They would facilitate a forum which is equally fair to me and Matt McCoy, and which is available to the public. Your initial proposal does not provide the access which the public has come to expect in a free nation. I do not believe free Americans are interested in a "forum" in which a candidate may not present a vision of which his political enemies do not approve. I believe the future ability of the League of Women Voters to describe themselves as "neutral" and "nonpartisan" without being publicly ridiculed is riding on your response to these concerns. Below is the same text, in email form.

Dave Leach

AMENDED RULES OF DEBATE AND DEBATE SITE MANAGEMENT  
THESE RULES ARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDELINES AND PRINCIPLES SET  
FORTH BY THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS UNITED STATES (LWVUS)

PREDEBATE

Candidates will be provided with a table in the foyer to display and provide campaign information for the public- flyers, stickers, brochures, yard signs etc.

Each candidate and any press will have access to the site two hours before the debate to check on the lighting, acoustics, debate hall setup and (for candidates) to prepare their information tables.

The public will be asked to sign in and the list of attendees will be supplied to each candidate.

Persons not wishing to sign in will not be required to do so.

DEBATE

The moderator will introduce the candidates using a 15-second introduction provided by the candidates.

Candidates will be introduced by title. Thereafter, "Mr." will be used.

The winner of a coin toss on the day of the debate will have first choice of podium position.

There will be a coin toss to determine candidates' order of taking the first question and order of closing statements

Audience ~~A prescreened group of~~ questions will be screened by ~~from each sponsoring organization~~ volunteers from the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa, the Alliance for Retired Americans, the Iowa Family Policy Center, and the Iowa Christian Alliance, for clarity, repetition, and appropriateness, and will be presented by the moderator to the candidates. Audience members may designate which organization will consider their question. Undesignated questions will be divided evenly between IAI/ARA, and IFPC/ICA. IAI, ARA, IFPC, and ICA will take turns submitting questions to the moderator.

Questions will not be forwarded to the candidates prior to debate.

Audience questions will be collected throughout the first hour of debate. While waiting for audience questions to come in, each of the four organizations may submit two questions of its own, taking turns. -and screened for clarity, repetition, and appropriateness by volunteers from the sponsoring organizations prior to presentation.

No campaign banners, signs, literature, handouts or other campaign paraphernalia will be allowed in the debate hall.

The audience will be asked to refrain from applauding or in other ways demonstrating support

or nonsupport for a candidate.

The candidates will remain behind their podium/lectern or table at all times during the debate. Stools will be provided.

A pitcher of water and a glass will be available to each candidate.

The candidates will bring no notes or props. Each candidate will be provided with a legal pad and pens for taking notes during the debate.

Time limits will be strictly observed.

A timekeeper will hold cards, visible to the speaker and moderator indicating how much time remains.

When the "stop card" is shown, the speaker must end his speech within 10 seconds.

The moderator will have the responsibility for enforcing time limits.

The moderator will have the authority to interrupt the proceedings if necessary to enforce the ground rules and format that were agreed to by the candidates and sponsoring organizations.

The moderator may restate the question.

The moderator may interrupt the candidates if they believe the candidates are straying too far from the subject. But the length of the interruption will not count as the candidate's time, and the moderator may not censor the candidate if the candidate explains how he remains indeed on the subject.

The candidates will not interrupt one another.

The candidates' closing statements may ~~should~~ be significantly related to the matters debated previously, or they may express the candidate's broad vision for Iowa.

Because there is no opportunity for rebuttal following the closing statements, candidates should refrain from personal attacks or charges, especially new attacks or charges not previously raised.

No flash cameras and no motor driven cameras will be used during the debate. Video cameras will be positioned behind the audience, and their operation will be quiet. Any press present may position a camera on the side, if it is placed unobtrusively, and remains in place throughout the debate. Any press present may add additional lighting, if it remains in place throughout the debate. This debate is not a private event but a very public event, serving the most public of public interests; therefore anyone has a right to make a video or audio record of it, and then owns the full rights to it.

~~If press is present they will be allowed to take notes during the debate but not videotape. (This may be modified if a media source agrees to film the debate in its entirety, show it only in its entirety, and acknowledge the rites to the film belong to the League of Women Voters, and that no part of the debate may be used in campaign promotion. If a media source makes a request to tape the proceedings this will be agreed upon by all parties to the debate prior to October 19, 2010.)~~

A press area will be provided near the entrance to the debate for arrival and departure photographs of the candidates and interviews after the debate if the candidates wish to speak to the press.

#### DEBATE FORMAT for SENATE DISTRICT 31 DEBATE OCTOBER 19, 2010

Welcome and introductions of Moderator by League President

Brief review of pertinent Debate rules

Introduction of candidates by Moderator

Brief review of debate format by Moderator

A two minute ~~No~~ opening statements will be given by each candidate.

Moderator will address questions to candidates.

After the opening statements, The first question will be addressed to Candidate A – the candidate winning the initial coin toss

Candidate A will be given 2 minutes to answer the questions Candidate B will then be given 2 minutes to answer/respond to the question A 30 second rebuttal will be allowed for Candidate A.

The next question will be directed initially to Candidate B and questions will continue to be

alternated in this manner.

Each candidate will be allowed a 3 minute closing statement (see rules of debate).  
The full allotted time per question does not need to be utilized.

### CANDIDATE DEBATE AGREEMENT FORM

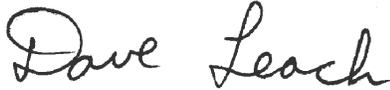
Debate: Senate debate for Senate District 31  
Date: Oct. 19, 2010  
Time: 7:00 – 8:30 pm  
Location: First Unitarian Church 1800 Bell Avenue  
Participants: Matt McCoy  
David Leach  
Moderator: David Walker, Professor Law

Sponsors: LWV Des Moines Metro  
Co-Sponsors: Interfaith Alliance of Iowa  
The Alliance for Retired Americans  
Additional participants: Iowa Family Policy Center  
Iowa Christian Alliance

To The League of Women Voters Des Moines Metro:

I have read the information regarding the planned debate between Matthew McCoy and David Leach on October 19, candidates for Senate District 31 in the State of Iowa.

I agree to the provisions set out in the confirmation letter, the Rules of Debate and Debate Site Management, and Debate Format, as I have amended them.



October 14, 2010 AD

Candidate Signature

Date

League President

Date

# Final Appeal to Matt McCoy

Based on the hopefully unprecedented badness of the League of Women Voters – that is, I can't imagine that even the LWV, as liberal as they are known to be, has every tried to pull off rules this blatantly biased before – I think my suspicion is reasonable that Matt McCoy instigated these rules, and in fact insisted on them.

This suspicion is consistent with the fact that Matt ignored the following final appeal to return to the moderator he had agreed to – Dr. Alan Koslow – before the LWV wormed their way in and displaced him. It is also supported by Christian Zenti's terse, ungrammatical agreement with replacing Koslow with LWV on September 23: "We have agreed to do only the debate [sic] with the League of Women Voters and will hold to this agreement. **The League of Women Voters has consistently presented a fair and good faith effort in arranging a neutral debate and location.**"

A third indication is that each time LWV's Barbara Boatright called me during September with some new change in the plans, she said she had just talked to McCoy and he approved it.

A fourth indication that Matt dictated these rules is that in each of his emails to me during September, he included a cryptic phrase: "I am happy to debate Mr. Leach on state issues that are of interest to voters in the upcoming election." (Sept 7 ) and "I want to limit the discussion to about an hour and focus on key state issues that related to the future of Iowa." (Sept 15)

Notice the progression: first, he says he is "happy to debate" "on state issues that are of interest to voters", with no implication that he has any other view of what "issues...are of interest to voters" than I do, but a week later he wants to "limit" discussion to that, which plainly states he considers my view of what is "related to the future of Iowa" so different than his that I must be "limited".

Definitely, the LWV rules very efficiently "limit" what I can say to what HE thinks is "of interest to voters" and "related to the future of Iowa"!

A fifth indication that McCoy engineered Koslow's replacement with LWV's is how long it took before he answered after Koslow agreed to do it. Sept 15, Wednesday night, just before midnight, Alan accepted. The acceptance was copied to McCoy. Alan and I sent several emails about the plans back and forth, copying all to McCoy, even saying we can't really proceed without knowing if McCoy approves a Democrat for a moderator, but the cat had suddenly gotten McCoy's tongue. Finally a little after 9am Sunday morning, Sept 19, Koslow said "Have not heard from Matt." Finally, then, Matt answered, at 12:35 pm. He was all smiles and ready to debate.

Mysteriously, the very next day, Sept 20, I had a call from Barbara Boatright of the League of Women Voters, all ready to moderate the debate! What a coincidence! I think it was Sept 7 that I had left a phone message for her personally; I don't have the exact date, but I left a followup email to their website Sept 10. Then on the 13<sup>th</sup> the website said they had delivered my email to the local League, which would be again to Barbara. Yet she ignored me, until I had found another moderator! From that point she was intent not only on assisting Koslow, but on replacing him. And when I said it smells funny, Matt's surrogate said it smells fine.

All this evidence is circumstantial. But together with the fact that he ignored the following final appeal indicates the goofy rules of the LWV were very much to his liking; the idea of a debate by normal rules, with a reasonable moderator, even though he was a Democrat, frightened him.

With this appeal, I gave McCoy a way to save face – to avoid the embarrassment of being held responsible for such absurdly unfair rules. But apparently the embarrassment of what might happen to him in a fair debate weighed more heavily on his mind.

I've thought about whether McCoy is really afraid of how I might make him look in a debate. I don't think that's it. I think he's afraid of how he might look before God, as I attempt to represent God's point of view as well as I know how.

So here was my final appeal:

From: Leach Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2010 1:40 PM To: realmccoy@me.com ; christian.zenti@gmail.com ; koslow@heartlandvascular.com Subject: Re: Signed, amended debate rules

Dear Matt, Are these crazy rules your idea of a fair forum? Surely not. On Sept 1, you wrote that an incumbent should "ensure voters get a full and fair hearing on all candidates' positions". You said voters "had earned a debate" and a "duly elected" incumbent has a "responsibility to ensure his constituents are able to make an informed decision about their candidates". Surely you agree with me that the League of Women Voters rules do not serve these noble purposes!

It doesn't look hopeful that LWV is going to change anything. Their first notice to me of their rules were emailed me late Sunday night. I emailed them late Monday night with my concerns. Even after a Register blog post Wednesday, still no answer.

Why don't we ask Alan if he will still moderate? We don't need the LWV if they are going to be

so unreasonable. We can still have a good public event. What do you say?

Dave Leach

From: Deborah Ann Turner Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2010 6:07 PM To: David Leach  
Cc: Max Knauer ; Max R Knauer, III ; Dorothy McGinnis ; karen person ; Jennifer Galuzzo ; Phyllis Franklindevine ; Carol Hibbs ; Barbara Boatwright

Dear Mr. Leach,

The LWV has not, does not, and will not endorse any candidate for elected office. The League is a nonpartisan organization that does sponsor candidate forums and candidates under very strict guidelines....

## Wait a minute! Stop right there! Nonpartisan?! Fair, Neutral?

OK, before we go any further, here are a few public records about the contributions of Turner, moderator David Walker, and Barbara Boatright to Democrats.

Deborah Turner's contributions to Democrats (listing her address as 4107 Cottage Grove)

March 3, 2010, \$500 to Chet Culver.

February 23, 2010, \$500 to ActBlue Iowa (since dissolved)

2008, \$450 to Hillary Clinton

2004, \$1,400 to Howard Dean

(Documentation: [https://webapp.iecdb.iowa.gov/publicview/ContributionSearch.aspx#ctf00\\_cph1\\_gvList](https://webapp.iecdb.iowa.gov/publicview/ContributionSearch.aspx#ctf00_cph1_gvList))

Contributions to Democrats from the moderator she chose, David S. Walker: (1922 80<sup>th</sup>, 50322)

January 3, 2006, \$100 to Planned Parenthood Voters of Iowa PAC

June 14, 2005, \$100 to Iowa Senate candidate Keith Kreiman

June 30, 2004 \$20 to Iowa Senate candidate Sands

(Documentation: [https://webapp.iecdb.iowa.gov/publicview/ContributionSearch.aspx#ctf00\\_cph1\\_gvList](https://webapp.iecdb.iowa.gov/publicview/ContributionSearch.aspx#ctf00_cph1_gvList))

Contributions to Democrats from Barbara Boatright: (2331 E. 39<sup>th</sup> Ct, 50317)

July 24, 2008, \$50 to Gaskill, State Representative candidate

June 27, 2007 \$50 to Jacoby, State Representative candidate

(Documentation: [https://webapp.iecdb.iowa.gov/publicview/ContributionSearch.aspx#ctf00\\_cph1\\_gvList](https://webapp.iecdb.iowa.gov/publicview/ContributionSearch.aspx#ctf00_cph1_gvList))

In addition to contributions, David Walker joined two other law professors in denouncing the initiative to vote against 3 Iowa Supreme Court justices for forcing sodomite marriage on Iowa. His op-ed appeared in the Des Moines Register September 27.

Guest opinion: Reject campaign to change Iowa's judge selection process

DAVID S. WALKER is a former dean and ALLAN W. VESTAL is current dean, Drake Law School. N. WILLIAM HINES is dean emeritus, the U of I College of Law. • September 27, 2010

The attack on the three Iowa Supreme Court justices up for retention in November distorts the facts and the role of the court, misrepresents the question before Iowans this fall, and ignores the real harm to the rule of law in Iowa the opponents' effort threatens. There is a lot at stake, and Iowans need to reject these efforts.

The opponents focus on one case, Varnum v. Brien. In Varnum, the court unanimously concluded that for the Legislature to exclude same-sex couples from the right to marry denied them the equal protection of the laws guaranteed by Iowa's Constitution. The court found the exclusion was not substantially related to the achievement of any of the governmental objectives the state put forward as justifications for marriage.

Opponents claim the court in Varnum "clearly stepped out of its constitutional boundaries," "usurped the powers granted to the Legislature, to the governor, and to the people," and "attempted to amend the constitution from the bench." These claims are not true. Since 1803, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the case of Marbury v. Madison, it has been settled in our nation that the U.S. Supreme Court is charged with determining whether acts of Congress fulfill the requirements of the constitution.

[Comment: this grossly misrepresents history. He doesn't mention that after the Supreme Court said that, President Madison, who by the way was known as "the father of our Constitution", said OK,

that's what the Court ruled; now let's see them enforce it! And Madison ignored the court, and furthermore used his constitutional authority to remove the judges responsible, which effectively silenced the surviving judges!]

This is "the very essence of judicial duty" and applies equally to the Iowa Supreme Court and our Legislature. The Iowa Constitution explicitly states, "This constitution shall be the supreme law of the land, and any law inconsistent therewith, shall be void." The Iowa Supreme Court in Varnum fulfilled its constitutional duty.

This is not to say that people of good will cannot disagree with the court's decision in a case. But in focusing on one case the opponents misrepresent the question before Iowans. A vote on retention was never designed to focus on the merits of a particular case but was intended instead to address the integrity, competency and basic fitness of the judges up for retention.

[“Sophistry”: noble words used to justify degenerate ideas. How are we supposed to judge “the integrity, competency, and basic fitness of the judges up for retention” if we are not allowed to evaluate the opinions they write? This wasn't just any ordinary “one case”! This case was in the news for years before they ruled! The Iowa legislature nearly passed a Constitutional Amendment to forestall this very ruling! It's not as if the justices were taken by surprise, that the public was watching this case so closely! The justices could not more dramatically have been informed of the will of the people, and yet they doggedly bungled the Constitution, jurisdiction, and common sense. If they do this poorly when they know everyone is watching, what must their rulings look like when no one is watching? Frightening!

[The amazing thing about this article is that Walker doesn't say a word of defense about the justices' handling of this case! He asserts only that they have jurisdiction to interpret the Constitution, and later he says they “have a record of integrity, competency and distinguished public service”, but not a detail of this wonderful record! Not a word to assure us the Varnum ruling was in fact unthinkable incompetent and dangerous! We are just supposed to overlook this one teensy case and believe all the rest of the time the justices are messengers from God, because three *lawyers* say so!

[And Walker's overstatement! Next he moans that the entire “Merit System” will be toast if voters exercise their authority under it! Only about 5 judges have been voted off the bench in the Merit System's half century, and if we increase that to 8 the whole system will crash?!]

For almost 50 years Iowa has had a merit system for the selection of judges. A large, bipartisan majority of the Legislature and the voters in 1962 established a selection system drawing upon the services of ordinary citizens and members of the bar in equal numbers to recommend to the governor, on the basis of merit and not politics, candidates for judicial office, one of whom the governor appoints. The reasons for this historic change were clear: Judicial elections are dominated by politics, not an assessment of the character or legal competence of candidates, and are not the best means for selecting judges.

This bipartisan action was farsighted. Today judicial elections elsewhere increasingly entail millions and millions of dollars raised by those running for judgeships in donations from lobbyists, persons regularly coming before the courts, special interests, and organizations outside the state seeking to advance their special agenda. Our merit selection system, in contrast, assures us that we will attract the best, most competent, and unbiased people to consider for judicial office and that we will keep our judges from being subjected to pressures from political parties, lobbyists, and special interests.

The merit selection process includes periodic votes on judges. Every eight years each member of the Supreme Court appears on the ballot with the simple question: Should this individual be retained for another term in office? The retention vote was designed for a very limited purpose, to provide a mechanism to remove a judge who was unfit for office, for example, because of corruption such as bribery, other unlawful conduct, or misconduct.

Those seeking to remove the three Supreme Court justices fail to recognize the substantial harm they will do to Iowa's judicial system if they succeed. It would do serious harm to the rule of law in Iowa and the fair and impartial administration of justice if judges are removed from office through campaigns of political opponents because of the results reached in particular cases. It would be an open invitation to well-funded interests to band together and retaliate against judges. Inevitably, decisions would appear to be influenced by politics and ideology, not by the law and evidence in a case.

**The three justices under attack have a record of integrity, competency and distinguished public service**, and a "yes" vote on their retention is merited by the facts.

Contact: David.Walker@drake.edu

OK, now that I have vented about LWV's so called “non-partisan neutrality and fairness”, back

to Turner's letter:

Dear Mr. Leach,

The LWV has not, does not, and will not endorse any candidate for elected office. The League is a nonpartisan organization that does sponsor candidate forums and candidates under very strict guidelines.

The guidelines that were sent to you and Mr. McCoy were mailed out the same day, at the same time. The league debate rules come directly from the League of Women Voters United States Debate Guidelines and Principles.

Our purpose has been to support a debate that allows the candidates to express their ideas about multiple topics concerning Iowans. The guidelines were written by the National League in order to avoid such issues as presenting forums or debates as campaign rallies and to allow civil exchange of ideas. As you may know the League of Women Voters discontinued sponsoring Presidential debates in 1988 due to the fact that the parties were unwilling to promote debates and forums without undue political and party influence.

The LWV Des Moines Metro has previously sponsored very civil and nonpartisan events with the co-sponsors of this event. The League has always reserved the right to select the moderator and to choose a person who has no specific relationship to any candidate. This year's moderator is a well respected professional with no ties to either campaign.

Unfortunately, the understanding of the League's position in promoting democracy and citizen participation in voting and government is many times misunderstood. The fact that we have treated both parties fairly and equally, have proceeded in a manner consistent with our national standards. [sic]

If you would like to proceed with the debate as outlined and with the Rules as prescribed please let me know by tomorrow noon. If you choose not to debate please let me know also. For your knowledge Mr. McCoy has read and agreed to the Rules of Debate as is and returned his agreement. Thank you for your time.

Deborah Ann Turner, MD President LWV Des Moines Metro

Perhaps the most aggravating thing about this letter is that she cc'd it to Barbara Boatright. Barbara had told me, all that time I was struggling to reach her by phone during September, that she doesn't have email! In case she tries to pull that on anyone else reading this, her email is: [dmbloat@aol.com](mailto:dmbloat@aol.com).

I replied to Turner:

From: music Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2010 8:00 PM To: Deborah Ann Turner

Subject: Remaining Problems with your rules for the Oct 19 debate between me and Matt McCoy

You write, below, that the rules you sent me late Sunday night were not specially created for this event, but are national guidelines you use all the time.

I would like to see your "League of Women Voters United States Debate Guidelines and Principles".

I googled that phrase and came up dry.

I googled "League of Women Voters" "United States Debate Guidelines and Principles" and came up dry.

I googled "League of Women Voters" "Debate Guidelines and Principles" and came up dry.

If the rules had already been created at a national level, why did you wait until 8 days before the debate to send them to me? And why did Barbara Boatright tell me the rules would be crafted by the two liberal co-sponsors?

I can't imagine how national rules could require that all questions be selected by two organizations which are partisans of one of the candidates. On February 16 the Interfaith Alliance got

117 clergy to sign a letter to lawmakers in support of gay marriage. Today's Register says the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa blasted the initiative to vote out 3 Supreme Court justices. McCoy is the reason that initiative is necessary. According to the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, "McCoy has been instrumental in promoting equality across Iowa for years. When a ban [on] marriage equality was proposed in 2005, Republicans controlled the state Senate – without Matt's eloquent advocacy, many onlookers believe the ban would have passed." Had McCoy let the ban pass, the Constitutional Amendment would have gone before voters in 2006, and probably again in 2008, making impossible the 2009 Supreme Court order forcing Iowans to accept "gay" marriage, and saving us having to vote three Supreme Court judges off the bench. By contrast, I am strongly opposed to gay marriage, and strongly supportive of the initiative to remove the justices. How am I supposed to believe your claims of being "nonpartisan" when you put an organization, that much "in bed" with my opponent on one of the issues that most divides us, in charge of dictating the subjects upon which I may speak? And when for a month you and Barbara have ignored my plea for a less liberal organization to be added to those selecting questions?

I can't imagine national rules that would prohibit opening statements, and limit closing statements to the subjects of the questions. I am used to questions about specifics, and closing statements about general principles which may incorporate some of the same specifics but which soar beyond them.

When you put them together, with the duty of the moderator to interrupt me if I stray from the subjects dictated by my political adversaries, and you take away my freedom to stray from my adversaries' subjects not only during questions but even in closing statements, and a lawyer is in charge of objecting to me when I stray, I see little opportunity for communication.

Any one of those three barriers, alone, I could handle. If the only problem were that my political adversaries choose the questions, I could handle that. I would answer as directly as possible, but save a little time for discussing what I think ought to be asked.

If the only problem were that I had to stick strictly to the subject, but those selecting the questions were nonpartisan, I would expect reasonable, fair questions.

I would just like to see the rules that say those things. I would like to know in which debates they were used; I would like to call the participants and ask how they went.

I would especially like to document the rule that the LWV retains the rights to all film taken! I would like to know who has ever consented to such a condition! I would like to understand what motivates the national rules to exclude TV news reporters.

You demand I answer you by noon tomorrow. I need you to answer these questions before I can even grasp how your conditions are possible. Will you answer me by noon tomorrow? I emailed you, late Monday night, and you waited 2-1/2 days to answer me at all. I had asked you to clarify several points where I simply need to know what you mean, and in this letter you decline to answer a single one of those questions. I really need answers to those questions too.

Dave Leach

## **The League of Women Voters Pulls the Plug**

It wasn't me who backed out of this debate! I asked for vague rules to be clarified before I signed their agreement, but not one word of clarification was ever offered. I signed an agreement almost like theirs but only amended to make them normal debate rules, which in any rational setting would have led to negotiations over details, but in this setting it was ignored and the event was simply canceled. Canceled by LWV, but also canceled with the blessing of McCoy, who silently declined my offer to dump these "crazy rules" and see if Alan Koslow is still available to moderate.

Here is Turner's terse cancellation:

From: Deborah Ann Turner Sent: Friday, October 15, 2010 2:27 PM To: David Leach ; Matt McCoy  
Below is the letter I have penned, if you think too much or too little let me know. [? sic]

Dear Mr. Leach and Mr. McCoy,

I regret to inform you due to unanticipated coordination complications the debate scheduled for Tuesday has been cancelled. [sic]

Every candidate and every campaign has the right to decide what issues and procedures best serve their needs. We thank you for your interest in our sponsorship. **For specific questions regarding LWV guidelines and policies you can go to the LWVUS website and type in debate for access.**

Deborah Ann Turner, MD

Comment: *Unanticipated?* What, her rules were not *designed* to get me to cancel?

Her final statement addressed my accusation that the rules for this debate are unprecedented even within LWV events. She promises that if I will go to this website I will find those national debate guidelines! Well, I did.

When I followed Deb Turner's directions, up came "sponsored listings for DEBATE". These are not LWV resources, but links to other sites. The most relevant listing was "How to Debate". You have to give them your cell number, and they text you a code you can enter so you can read these wonderful articles! Only three articles appeared. One is tips how to find out the rules used for past presidential debates! Like, listen to the beginning, or read a news article about it! The article was laid out like a junior high civics assignment, and even began with the category "Difficulty: moderate". A second article told how to make pretty posters for a debate! And the third was writing tips on how to write a cool introduction if you are the moderator!

(See <http://howto.thenewsucanuse.com/article/how-to-find-presidential-debate-rules?search=debate>

"How to Find Presidential Debate Rules" Difficulty: moderatel'ts fun to watch presidential candidates engage in spirited debate before an election. An unrehearsed debate is an excellent way to see a candidate perform under pressure. It's also a means to gauge their education on certain issues and how each compares to the other candidates. It helps to know debate rules for the particular debate venue so you can decide when they've crossed the line.

Requirements:

Steps:

1. For party debates, find the time limits established for candidates to respond to questions. At the Democratic debate at Cleveland State University, the only guidelines were that candidates' responses be held to a reasonable length. The moderator can therefore make the decision to end a candidate's turn if he is talking too long.
2. Catch the beginning of the debate. The moderator will explain the format and the rules before the debate begins.
3. Look for information on the presidential debate in the debate city's newspaper. Debates are big local and national news stories and often land on the front pages on local papers.
4. Visit the website of the Commission on Presidential Debate for the rules of presidential debate before an election.
5. Explore the rules from past debates, which are available for the public to read. Past rules have established the times all debates will start, manner in which candidates may or may not address each other, and the length of closing arguments, as well as many other points.

Notes:

Top Results for "debate"

- How to Start an Introduction for a Debate
- How to Design Debate Posters

<http://howto.thenewsucanuse.com/article/how-to-start-an-introduction-for-a-debate>

How to Start an Introduction for a Debate

Difficulty: moderate

The art of the debate is something that has been practiced among people for centuries. Like any performance or conversation though, the introduction to a debate is the most important part. Your introduction grabs your audience and gets their attention. As such, it should be one of the most thought out parts of your argument.

Requirements:

Steps:

1. Research your part of the debate. Say for instance you are arguing for stricter gun control. You should already have your statistics on gun ownership, reasoning for stricter controls and what benefits that should have, and counter arguments against your opposition's likely points prepared before you sit down to work on your introduction.
2. Examine your points carefully. Your introduction should take the best points you prepared in your debate, without actually using them up front. For example, if you were opening a debate for gay marriage on the pro side, you should mention broad points, such as the idea of equal rights. You should not include specific numbers in your introduction.
3. Write your introduction. It should include a statement of your purpose and view on the debate, as well as list broad, persuasive points. The language used should be appealing to your target audience, and your introduction should be as brief as possible, taking no more than 20-30 seconds to read aloud.
4. Test your introduction on a target audience. Find someone outside of your research and ask them to read it, or to listen to you read it. Ask them for feedback. Find out what parts of the introduction work, if the language is right, and if the tone is proper. Then revise your introduction, and try it again.
5. Once your introduction has been revised, revamped, and tested on other people, it's ready to be read. Care should be taken that every part of your debate undergoes the same treatment as the introduction, otherwise your audience will be sucked in by a false promise.

Notes:

# Fundrace

Earlier I listed contributions to Democrats by Deb Turner, Barbara Boatright, and David Walker. The federal figures came from "Fundrace", a service of Huffington Post. On the page with the results,

the web page asks, "Did you find anything interesting on Fundrace?"

I answered, "Deb Turner, Des Moines physician and lawyer, is president of the League of Women Voters, and in that capacity originated rules for the now-canceled Oct 19 debate which I could not sign without clarification. She canceled the event rather than clarify her rules. Your information, that she donated \$1,400 to Howard Dean in 2004 and \$450 to Hillary Clinton in 2008, helps counter her assertion that everything she does is nonpartisan, neutral, and fair. Her rules made me stick to subjects dictated by two groups strongly partisan to my opponent. Had I strayed from those subjects there was going to be a lawyer there to object. Apparently no video or audio record would be made of the debate so people who did not attend could see it, or document what was said. And I had to agree not to tell anyone what was said. For all the details including news articles go to [www.Saltshaker.US/Leach2010](http://www.Saltshaker.US/Leach2010), 'news'."

## Ken Richards v. Matt McCoy

Ken Richards, who beat me in the 2000 Republican primary in House District 62, Des Moines South Side, is primed to run against McCoy if I fail to defeat him. Richards is angry with McCoy. He wrote to him, cc'ing to me:

From: Ken Richards Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2010 9:33 PM To: Matthew McCoy ; Dave Leach  
Cc: Deborah Ann Turner ; Jan Michelson ; [stevedeace@clearchannel.com](mailto:stevedeace@clearchannel.com) ; Rep Steve King ; Rekha Basu ; [koslow@heartlandvascular.com](mailto:koslow@heartlandvascular.com) Subject: Re: State Senator Matt McCoy (Ultimate Hypocrite)  
Matt,

It appears I was entirely accurate when I previously I labeled you a hypocrite. My subsequent apology when you accepted the debate with Dave Leach was the right thing to do at the time considering you have not denied a debate with him when you called out Congressman Steve King on the same issue. However, your subsequent actions or lack of actions that have all but eliminated the possibility of any real debate with your own opponent simply show you are really just a coward. It is now obvious you have no real intention of debating your opponent Dave Leach. The League of Women Voters (hyper Democratic stooges and obvious McCoy proxy in this situation) are constantly changing the debate rules to the point the word "debate" would be a false term. You and your proxy organization have stopped short of scripted what Dave is allowed to say but clearly whatever he is allowed to say will be silenced if it strays off the two or three topics you choose. Nothing in this debate will ever be heard unless the League of Women Voters approves of you have stacked the deck to the point you cannot lose. If you lose the debate with your chosen questions you will simply prevent anyone from ever hearing it.

At this point, Dave Leach has no business debating you at all because it will come down to issues you choose (unless we assume the gay and lesbian groups choosing these questions are unbiased). Dave is prevented from answering anything other than these answers and unable to make opening and closing statements that deviate from these answers. Naturally, you have an out because you can claim you are adhering to the rules of the "neutral" moderator but if you were 1/20th the "man" you claim to be you would stand up and have a real debate rather than hide like a coward. It is my advice to Dave to not debate you given these new rules and my prayer that WHO Radio will comment on the outrageous way your proxy, the League of Women Voters, manipulated this normally very simple process to silence the Republican Opponent. I believe Dave can score more points by not debating you, given these ridiculous and ever-changing rules against him, and will not be subject to limitations he might be subject to if he actually goes forward with this debate

As an out of the closet sodomite I would think you would be willing to have a debate where the free flow of ideas could be heard by all in this vibrant "Representative Republic" but the fact is you are

doing and allowing the opposite. That leads me to the only possible conclusion that you are terrified of Dave Leach and the public otherwise you would have a real debate. You may survive this election in your cushy Democratic district by silencing your unfunded opponent Dave Leach. I have recorded every email and I will not be fully self funded if I come after your seat. You could remove this issue by being the "man" you pretend to be and have a fair(er) debate. Personally, I relish the idea to come when it is my time but right now it's Dave's and you owe it to him to give a real debate. Unless, of course, you were lying when you told Iowa's 5th district they were owed a debate by Congressman King. I think liar is probably more accurate but as I wrote before coward and hypocrite also apply.

Too bad you did not accept decent Democrat Dr. Alan Koslow but I understand why you did not after seeing your radical feminist and virulently anti-Democracy advocates railroad this debate on your "willing" behalf to shut it down.

Bottom line, this "debate to have a debate" gives insight that you do not respect Democracy at all. Likewise the Iowa League of Women Voters will be forever tarnished with the lies they've written concerned standard debate rules. Clearly, neither you or the League of Women Voters, believe in the voter's right to make an informed decision. Finally, this debate has always been about the voter's right to hear more than your view of the issues. It goes far beyond homosexuality to the fundamental questions of Democracy in action. Sadly, your conduct is beneath the Democracy (Representative Republic) you shamelessly use for your own purposes rather than the public good.

Ken Richards

From: Ken Richards

Sent: Friday, October 15, 2010 10:12 PM

To: Matthew McCoy

Cc: Rep Steve King ; Steve Deace ; Dr. Alan Koslow ; AcknowledgeHimN2010@Saltshaker.US ; Jan Michelson ; Rekha Basu ; Rekha Basu

Subject: Matt McCoy debate reality contrasted with his bold letter challenging Steve King

Matt,

Clearly a powerful politician with your resources and influence could find a way to debate your opponent if you really felt voters had a right to hear both sides of the debate. Apparently, you apply that to Congressman Steve King's voters and not your own. I would think Democrat Dr. Alan Koslow would be a suitable moderator now that the heavily biased and left leaning League of Women Voters has withdrawn after their one-sided debate rules were exposed to the public. Bottom line, I am 100% sure you have no interest in debating Dave Leach because the public would be truly shocked by your lifestyle and answers if given the chance to hear and see you in action against a sharp opponent. I am sending this email to confirm that you were presented an opportunity to debate him so you cannot say you would have debated him but were prevented by any reason other than you did not want to debate.

Ken Richards

From a friend in Connecticut:

Sent: Saturday, October 16, 2010 2:52 PM

To: music@iowatelecom.net

Subject: RE: Signed, amended debate rules

Hello, David,

I had to laugh a bit. Anyone who regards the League of Women Voters as "neutral" or "non-partisan" probably thinks MSNBC is "fair and balanced". Don't most conservatives already understand that the so-called League of Women Voters has been an extreme left organization for many years, if not since its inception? Why should they have anything to do with the debate at all? How does their participation enhance or improve the debate in any way? Why not merely have the thing without them? I'm sure there is some reason -- I just don't know what it is.

David

P. S. **If anyone objects to the presence of video cameras, I hope you have a plan to flog him or her on that. Voters instinctively understand that no one objects to having a debate video'd unless he or she has something to hide.**

Also, the requirement that the candidates could not see the questions in advance is odd, when you think about it. What is this, a contest to see who can think on his feet the fastest? Legislation is generally crafted fairly slowly and deliberately, there is no valid reason that each candidate's statements of his positions ought not be as well....

## More Register Coverage

### **Matt McCoy-Dave Leach debate called off**

Blog post by Jennifer Jacobs • [jjacobs@dmreg.com](mailto:jjacobs@dmreg.com) • October 18, 2010

The debate between Sen. Matt McCoy, D-Des Moines, and his Republican challenger, Dave Leach, has been called off.

“Due to unanticipated coordination complications the debate scheduled for Tuesday has been cancelled,” said Deborah Ann Turner, president of the League of Women Voters of Des Moines Metro.

Leach, an anti-abortion activist, had complained that the rules were stacked against him. One rule would prohibit the candidates from straying too far off the topic, and Leach doubted topics important to him would come up. He also thought other rules were unfair.

Turner said the League of Women Voter’s sponsorship of the debate was nonpartisan. The rules were based on established guidelines, she said.

“Our organization has three purposes – to foster education in citizenship, to promote forums and public discussion of civic reforms, and to support needed legislation. Our goal is do this always in an atmosphere of civil discourse,” she said. “(The league) respects the rights of every candidate and every campaign to decide what issues and procedures best serve their needs.”

I posted a comment after the article: “Here's my WHO radio ad explaining the issue: (text of ad) Turner, and David Walker, her moderator of choice, contribute to Dems. Walker wrote a Sep 27 op-ed against voting off the Supremes, which I support.

### **Matt McCoy’s Boycott of Jan Mickelson’s Advertisers**

By Dave Leach

I wish I were free to tell you what Mickelson said that merited his station’s owner, Clear Channel, saying he “confused medical fact and contained factual errors in the spread of the disease”. But Clear Channel didn’t say it its statement, and I don’t want to put words in its mouth. You would think if there were factual errors in what Mickelson said, Clear Channel, the owner of a string of radio stations each with its own news department, would have on tap the linguistic talent to explain not just *that* someone is wrong in *something* they said, but *what* they said that was wrong. And maybe even what makes it wrong.

You would also think if Mickelson were guilty of some error, it would have been mentioned in at least one of the two news articles about Mickelson's factual errors.

Instead, all we have, from the Des Moines Register, (by Jason Clayworth, 9/1) is "He likened AIDS to lung disease, cirrhosis of the liver and heart disease." We are left to guess *in what sense* Mickelson made these comparisons. I can't imagine anyone can doubt they are comparable in severity! They are all killers. Besides, AIDS guts resistance to all three conditions.

The article says Mickelson's "factual errors" were "in the spread of the disease", but no errors were identified, and McCoy did not fill in the details omitted in the articles and the Clear Channel statement, which I would expect of someone who chose to be so "offended" by those details as to call for a boycott. The facts of the transmission of AIDS are so widely known that it is hard to imagine much debate over them, much less a radio personality getting them so wrong as to be regarded even controversial, much less worthy of a boycott!

The Register said 60% of Iowans with AIDS were men who got it through sodomy, and 16% was through heterosexual sex – but those figures are not broken down so we can know if even those 16% got it from men who got it through sodomy. The implication of the article, by the inclusion of these figures, is that they probably somehow correct misinformation that Mickelson gave. However, nothing Mickelson said contradicted or even addressed any such figures.

McCoy's other article featured on his home page about his boycott is by Michelle Garcia, writing September 2 in *The Advocate*. But Garcia only has her information "according to the Des Moines Register".

I am indebted to Fred Karger, who describes himself as an "openly gay GOP presidential hopeful". Not for being a sodomite, but for his article about Matt's boycott. Fred gives no clues, either, to Mickelson's "factual errors", but he gives links to the audio of Mickelson, and of the Clear Channel disclaimer. See <http://fredkarger.com/posts/one-iowa-clear-channel-rebukes-mickelsons-factual-errors-on-hiv-aids>

Only through those links was I able to find out what Mickelson actually said, and what Clear Channel said. But after listening, I still am clueless what McCoy, the Register, or Clear Channel find in Mickelson's statements that is "factually inaccurate".

The following transcript I made of the audio is almost word for word: I trimmed a little redundancy. Go to Karger's links for the audio to hear it word for word. Can anyone tell me one single thing Mickelson said which is untrue? Until someone will step forward with that information, I must confess Mickelson's statements are not only irrefutably true, but are common knowledge. Everyone knows these facts. To choose to be "offended" by Mickelson's statements is to choose to bury your head in the sand and be "offended" by reality.

Please, dear reader, if you see anything untrue in Mickelson's statements, which follow, will you alert me to it?

## Mickelson's August 19 Statements on Jeremy Walters, AIDS, and Disease

Mickelson: Propaganda works. You've heard the Public Service Announcements of local politicians and others saying "AIDS does not discriminate". That's the message they want to pound in our heads. What do they mean? Anyone can get it. No focus on any group, so we should not stigmatize anyone. There is a story about Jeremy Walters, running for house, has said insensitive things about people with AIDS. He talks about blood and AIDS and blasted homosexual lobby on website. One Iowa went ballistic and called on Iowa GOP to disavow his "hate speech". His comments are inpolitic, he is running for office, nothing to do with God and homosexuality and the death penalty for homosexuals. He quoted some Old Testament verses. I don't know why some people are inclined to do that kind of thing but he did and he's getting bludgeoned for it.

*[My editorial comment: I am not sure if Jan is being sarcastic or if he really questions the relevance of these Old Testament verses to a political campaign, but for anyone in doubt about that, I will answer that sodomy would not even be an issue had not God spoken about it. 2 Timothy 3:16 said the Old Testament is the Word of God, and a valuable contributor to every discussion, before the New Testament was even Scripture. And 2 Timothy 3:16 is in the New Testament.]*

The homosexual lobby went into attack mode. They extracted a statement from Matt Strawn. "HIV Aids does not discriminate. And our hearts and prayers go out to any family member facing this disease." Wow! Propaganda works, and it works on Republicans! But even a smart energetic competent fellow can be the victim of propaganda!

In what sense is it propaganda?

"AIDS does not discriminate." OK, let's test that theory. Let's apply it to 'fill in the blank' here. Let's see.

Heart disease and diabetes doesn't discriminate. But you probably should take that weight off, lardbut!

Lung disease doesn't discriminate, but it might be a good idea to stop smoking.

Schirrosis of the liver doesn't discriminate, but maybe you should stop drinking.

Of course, lifestyle-oriented diseases tend to reward those lifestyle afflictions disproportionately to the behavior of those doing them! This isn't rocket science. So does God punish homosexuality? Does He punish sodomy? Well, no, He doesn't get off his throne and say "I'm going to get that guy!" Well, not directly. But think of it this way. Most of God's laws are natural laws. That is, laws that are consistent with the nature of the universe because it was built that way. Most of God's laws are self-enforcing.

So if you sky dive without a parachute, does God punish people who do that? No! But one of His inventions does: gravity. You're going to die! Should you blame God for that?

Propaganda forgets that natural law applies to sexual orders. There was a homosexual group that used propaganda to de-stigmatize stupid behavior. And it worked on Matt Strawn.

## Comment Stream After McCoy's Letter

This is the comment stream that transformed McCoy's censure of Congressman King into implied willingness to debate me

**JimRobinson3** wrote:

"King has an obligation to ensure voters get a full and fair hearing on all candidates' positions."

So how is NOT debating hindering the above? Look, debates are the biggest waste of time, they have

become so staged and stilted that they long ago lost their relevance. If someone is SO pathetic that they need people from different parties and ideologies to stand side-by-side to figure out who they are going to vote for, than frankly I wish they WOULDNT vote! What? You DONT know where King stands??? Come on! The parties are SO driven by ideology that any FOOL sitting on the fence should just fall off and leave those of us in the know to deal with adult matters.

feigner wrote:

I agree that political debates anymore no matter who they are moderated by are a joke. Iovns would be better served to pay attention to what their candidates do say when they are interviewed by a person who puts them in an uncomfortable spot with their statements once in a while and have them explain their positions.

The “canned” questions that are asked in televised debates are a waste of everyones time. Given enough opportunity to speak the folks running for office will tell more than they should probably.

9/1/2010 5:54:36 AM

conversionthrapy wrote:

IT'S ONE THING if the two candidates, during a debate, discuss issues and make the case for their side of the issue.

IT'S ANOTHER THING if one candidate USES the debate to TAKE CHEAP SHOTS at the other candidate, which is what Rep. King's opponent has a HISTORY OF DOING.

Rep. King is ABSOLUTELY CORRECT in refusing to “debate” (quote unquote) his opponent.

9/1/2010 6:29:02 AM

MuscDutchman wrote:

or could it be that Steve ‘what have I done for Iowa lately’ King would end up looking like Caribou Barbie? I think he's just afraid of a debate because he would have to answer questions about what he's done or not done during his term in office. I think you call it, being afraid.

9/1/2010 7:20:42 AM

stumpjack2 wrote:

Candidates do not have an obligation to debate, the way rules of such debates work they are more like weapons of mass talking points only, so I agree with those premises as noted so far.

However, watching the video reminded me of some of the many reasons I find King to be a boar. Claiming an opposing candidate must “earn” the right to debate him is falsely condescending given King's sorry record in Congress: no history of writing substantial legislation and a man his party tries to shuffle to the back of the room and away from the well (except late at night).

Moreover, if his challenger is only an attack dog I would think King would want the chance to put him in his place and straighten out those unfair attacks upon him. Never having debated a person running against him does come across as less than courageous, and especially if that opponent is misrepresenting him.

9/1/2010 7:28:10 AM

SamOsborne wrote:

Maybe if King could work of the courage to show up if he had Sarah Palin, Bob Vander Plaats, and Michele Bachmann---with Rush as moderator?

9/1/2010 7:29:08 AM

snetzky wrote:

Replying to JimRobinson3:

What? Your DONT know where King stands??? Come on! The parties are SO driven by ideology that any FOOL sitting on the fence should just fall off and leave those of us in the know to deal with adult matters.

That's part of the problem, though. If people don't ask their representatives to talk about how they would solve specific problems facing the country and the community at large, how do they know. Steve King has made a career of shooting his mouth off, but what has he really accomplished for the 5th district other than provide a steady source of entertainment? 9/1/2010 7:30:45 AM

JimRobinson3 wrote:

Replying to MuscDutchman:

or could it be that Steve 'what have i done for Iowa lately' King would end up looking like Caribou Barbie? I think he's just afraid of a debate because he would have to answer questions about what he's done or not done during his term in office. I think you call it, being afraid.

Oh come on!? At ANY of his Q&A meetings those same questions can be asked and have. How about asking his opponent what he has done PERIOD? (Tick tick tick...) A liberal in Western Iowa has about as much chance of getting elected as a snowball has in a furnace. If you think a useless debate would change that you are more than naive. 9/1/2010 7:33:12 AM

puddleduck wrote:

Actually, I find debates very helpful. Of course much depends on the moderators and the forum, but it's important to have candidates publicly demonstrate their mastery of the issues, their ability to clearly state their positions, to think on their feet, to confront their opposition face to face. After all, that's what they're expected to do as our elected representatives.

When a candidate isn't willing to stand up and debate, I have serious doubts about his or her abilities.

9/1/2010 8:27:36 AM

alphakat wrote:

Steve King = Imperial Poultry

9/1/2010 8:43:30 A

swireader wrote:

I'm a voter in western Iowa, who actually voted for Rep. King, and at times wonder why. I agree with JimRobinson3, a candidate with a (D) behind his name has little chance to get elected here, but I do offer up some respect for the other candidate simply because he is willing to make the effort and mount a campaign. IMHO, debates follow many of the forums here in the DMR. They start out as an exchange of positions, and turn into personal attacks. It's really pretty sad that intelligent dialogue degrades to name calling. What happened to civility? 9/1/2010 8:50:04 AM

slater1 wrote:

Replying to conversionthrapy:

IT'S ONE THING if the two candidates, during a debate, discuss issues and make the case for their side of the issue.

IT'S ANOTHER THING if one candidate USES the debate to TAKE CHEAP SHOTS at the other candidate, which is what Rep. King's opponent has a HISTORY OF DOING.

Rep. King is ABSOLUTELY CORRECT in refusing to "debate" (quote unquote) his opponent.

I don't remember you calling out Palin for all her CHEAP SHOTS during her debate with Biden. I would think "your rules" would apply to both sides. You should admit to being the party hack you are. 9/1/2010 8:56:29 AM

stoothman wrote:

I find it amusing that conservatives are such champions of empowering ordinary people in our republic. But when it comes time to actually put their money where their mouth is they are running the other way as fast as they can. Whether it is Sharon Angle's inane comment about how the media should only report what she wants or King's equally moronic statement that his duly elected Democratic challenger has not "earned a debate", they all show the same lack of principle. 9/1/2010 9:05:48 AM

kc4isu wrote:

Replying to JimRobinson3:

Replying to MuscDutchman:

or could it be that Steve 'what have i done for Iowa lately' King would end up looking like Caribou Barbie? I think he's just afraid of a debate because he would have to answer questions about what he's done or not done during his term in office. I think you call it, being afraid.

Oh come on!?! At ANY of his Q&A meetings those same questions can be asked and have. How about asking his opponent what he has done PERIOD? (Tick tick tick...) A liberal in Western Iowa has about as much chance of getting elected as a snowball has in a furnace. If you think a useless debate would change that you are more than naive.

Are you refering to his town hall meetings which are packed with his supporters and shout down

anyone who asks a hard question? These Q & A's are just like the town hall meetings all politicians of both parties hold, they were nothing more than political rallies. 9/1/2010 9:26:22 AM

StuntDonkey wrote:

Because King has nothing to stand on during a debate. That's ok though, if he wins this time he won't the next time after redistricting. Only 2 more years of the wackjob at best. 9/1/2010 10:11:21 AM

rickmeiers wrote:

if king were to allow a debate, would he answer questions?

or would he actually use politican speak and give non-answer answers?

he has gotten good at it at times, when he isn't ranting and raving. 9/1/2010 11:13:37 AM

snetzky wrote:

Replying to swireader:

What happened to civility?

Right wing media put a stake through its heart. 9/1/2010 11:40:59 AM

travelerljl wrote:

Replying to JimRobinson3:

"King has an obligation to ensure voters get a full and fair hearing on all candidates' positions."

So how is NOT debating hindering the above? Look, debates are the biggest waste of time, they have become so staged and stilted that they long ago lost their relevance. If someone is SO pathetic that they need people from different parties and ideologies to stand side-by-side to figure out who they are going to vote for, than frankly I wish they WOULDNT vote! What? Your DONT know where King stands??? Come on! The parties are SO driven by ideology that any FOOL sitting on the fence should just fall off and leave those of us in the know to deal with adult matters.

Maybe they'd like to know where his opponent stands. Just because you don't want a debate doesn't mean the other constituents don't. Btw, maybe you should read the earlier letter on name calling and degrading. Or is that the only way you can win? 9/1/2010 11:44:57 AM

NotAmused wrote:

Replying to snetzky:

Replying to swireader:

What happened to civility?

Right wing media put a stake through its heart.

I think you should listen to the local lefties out there. Like that Bradshaw guy. He calls people names like knuckle-draggers, etc. if he does not agree with their positions. And there is always David Gregory

on Meet the Press who only argues with republican guests with a continuous chant of the democrat mantra. The decline of civil discourse has been brought about by radicalism on both sides of the political spectrum.

9/1/2010 12:17:15 PM

HarvDog wrote:

In this case, I believe that a debate is not necessary. King's answer to the possibility of a debate is an excellent reflection of his character. Arrogant. A debate would likely reveal little more about King than this. That is why he is afraid of debating his opponent. What more information do the voters need?

9/1/2010 12:19:48 PM

rickmeiers wrote:

Replying to NotAmused:

Replying to snetzky:

Replying to swireader:

What happened to civility?

Right wing media put a stake through its heart.

I think you should listen to the local lefties out there. Like that Bradshaw guy. He calls people names like knuckle-draggers, etc. if he does not agree with their positions. And there is always David Gregory on Meet the Press who only argues with republican guests with a continuous chant of the democrat mantra. The decline of civil discourse has been brought about by radicalism on both sides of the political spectrum.

you want to talk bout the pundits who name call? you have 2 examples. should we start a list and see which sides pundits does it more often?

9/1/2010 12:25:15 PM

off2jamaica wrote:

Matt,

When did you move to the 5<sup>th</sup> District?

9/1/2010 12:28:28 PM

rickmeiers wrote:

Replying to off2jamaica:

Matt,  
When did you move to the 5th District?

so now you want to keep him from having an opinion?  
9/1/2010 12:37:05 PM

ConservativeKen wrote:

State Senator Matt McCoy,

I will remember your letter and if decide to run against you in the coming years I will put this letter in my campaign literature alongside your refusal to debate me. You think you will be there forever in your supposedly safe Democratic district but the time to change you out is also near. Iowa's version of Barney Frank deserves to lose. Honestly, why wait for me, why not debate your opponent Dave Leach right now? Perhaps you are afraid of the Bible because Dave quotes it continually and we know how you feel about "that book." It is time the Catholics who continually reelect you hear what you have to say. They should see you out front with your life partner and realize the immorality you have in your own life is also your plan for their children through the left leaning laws you support. If Dave takes you out of office I won't have to so I ask all Christians and people tired of Matt McCoy's double talk to ask him to debate his opponent.

9/1/2010 1:11:21 PM

rickmeiers wrote:

Replying to ConservativeKen:

Iowa's version of Barney Frank deserves to lose.

and so does the 5th district's verion of fred phelps.

9/1/2010 1:14:39 PM

NotAmused wrote:

Replying to rickmeiers:

Replying to NotAmused:/blockquote>

you want to talk bout the pundits who name call? you have 2 examples. should we start a list and see which sides pundits does it more often?

I certainly won't argue with you that the conservative hosts are much better supported in their efforts by a larger audience and therefore they are greater in number; if that's your point. Of course, the left side of the equation wants to dismantle the free market so as to silence voices with which they disagree. Or, is that your point?

AHA !!! - so now we see how the decline of civility is initiated. And after all, isn't that what my initial response is about? Let's face it. In a country ideologically divided as we are, argument comes naturally and frequently. Anyway, it was a pleasure to have read you comment. I'll look forward to reading more from you in the future. Best wishes to you and yours.

9/1/2010 1:39:37 PM

rickmeiers wrote:

Replying to NotAmused:

I certainly won't argue with you that the conservative hosts are much better supported in their efforts by a larger audience and therefore they are greater in number; if that's your point. Of course, the left side of the equation wants to dismantle the free market so as to silence voices with which they disagree. Or, is that your point?

AHA !!! - so now we see how the decline of civility is initiated. And after all, isn't that what my initial response is about? Let's face it. In a country ideologically divided as we are, argument comes naturally and frequently. Anyway, it was a pleasure to have read you comment. I'll look forward to reading more from you in the future. Best wishes to you and yours.

and how by chance does the left want to silence voices?

9/1/2010 1:48:00 PM

travelerljl wrote:

Replying to NotAmused:

Replying to snetzky:

Replying to swireader:

What happened to civility?

Right wing media put a stake through its heart.

I think you should listen to the local lefties out there. Like that Bradshaw guy. He calls people names like knuckle-draggers, etc. if he does not agree with their positions. And there is always David Gregory on Meet the Press who only argues with republican guests with a continuous chant of the democrat mantra. The decline of civil discourse has been brought about by radicalism on both sides of the political spectrum.

So, do we have to follow suit then scream "He said it first!" I thought we were all out of elementary school.

9/1/2010 1:50:59 PM

provideproof wrote:

Replying to feigner:

I agree that political debates anymore no matter who they are moderated by are a joke. Iowans would be better served to pay attention to what their candidates do say when they are interviewed by a person who puts them in an uncomfortable spot with their statements once in a while and have them explain their positions. The "canned" questions that are asked in televised debates are a waste of everyones time. Given enough oppotunity to speak the folks running for office will tell more than they should probably.

The problem with relying on interviews is that the candidates often only give interviews to people who won't put them in an uncomfortable spot. Without debates, the candidates just spew whatever they want without anyone calling them on it.

9/1/2010 2:38:15 PM

provideproof wrote:

Replying to conversionthrapy:

IT'S ONE THING if the two candidates, during a debate, discuss issues and make the case for their side of the issue.

IT'S ANOTHER THING if one candidate USES the debate to TAKE CHEAP SHOTS at the other candidate, which is what Rep. King's opponent has a HISTORY OF DOING.

Rep. King is ABSOLUTELY CORRECT in refusing to "debate" (quote unquote) his opponent.

How come it doesn't surprise me that you don't know that you don't have to type "quote unquote" when you actually use quotes.

9/1/2010 2:39:44 PM

JimRobinson3 wrote:

Replying to travelerlj1:

Replying to JimRobinson3:

"King has an obligation to ensure voters get a full and fair hearing on all candidates' positions."

So how is NOT debating hindering the above? Look, debates are the biggest waste of time, they have become so staged and stilted that they long ago lost their relevance. What? Your DONT know where King stands??? Come on! The parties are SO driven by ideology that any FOOL sitting on the fence should just fall off and leave those of us in the know to deal with adult matters.

Maybe they'd like to know where his opponent stands. Just because you don't want a debate doesn't mean the other constituents don't. Btw, maybe you should read the earlier letter on name calling and degrading. Or is that the only way you can win?

Oh, did I hurt someones wittle feelings??? Politics aint bean bag my friend! I was NOT put on this Earth to worry about anyone but ME ME ME!!! (Just kidding honey!)

9/1/2010 2:41:30 PM

XRIGHT wrote:

Replying to rickmeiers:

Replying to NotAmused:

I certainly won't argue with you that the conservative hosts are much better supported in their efforts by a larger audience and therefore they are greater in number; if that's your point. Of course, the left side of the equation wants to dismantle the free market so as to silence voices with which they disagree. Or, is that your point?

AHA ! ! ! - so now we see how the decline of civility is initiated. And after all, isn't that what my initial response is about? Let's face it. In a country ideologically divided as we are, argument comes naturally and frequently.

and how by chance does the left want to silence voices?

Well, from inside the Obama admin there was an attempt to sideline conservative media asking lib media not mention them and stop funding for conservative radio. Even lib media balked as their 1A rights were being threatened. It was dropped, but it was attempted.

9/1/2010 3:13:49 PM

KCClone wrote:

Replying to ConservativeKen:

State Senator Matt McCoy,

You think you will be there forever in your supposedly safe Democratic district but the time to change you out is also near. Iowa's version of Barney Frank deserves to lose. Honestly, why wait for me, why not debate your opponent Dave Leach right now? Perhaps you are afraid of the Bible because Dave quotes it continually and we know how you feel about "that book." It is time the Catholics who continually reelect you hear what you have to say. They should see you out front with your life partner and realize the immorality you have in your own life is also your plan for their children through the left leaning laws you support. If Dave takes you out of office I won't have to so I ask all Christians and people tired of Matt McCoy's double talk to ask him to debate his opponent.

It never ceases to amaze me that you express surprise when people consider you to be homophobic, Ken, especially when you post rants like this one.

9/1/2010 3:20:19 PM

XRIGHT wrote:

King has no obligation to debate Campbell. If Campbell is short of funds he should seek exposure through a greater effort at fund raising or perhaps come up with some silly nonsensical drama that would get some free exposure from the DMR. Kinda like this article.

9/1/2010 3:20:27 PM

provideproof wrote:

Replying to ConservativeKen:

State Senator Matt McCoy,

I will remember your letter and if decide to run against you in the coming years I will put this letter in my campaign literature alongside your refusal to debate me.

BIG difference between King and McCoy. McCoy has actually debated against his opponents, King just runs away and hides.

9/1/2010 3:21:29 PM

rickmeiers wrote:

Replying to XRIGHT:

>and how by chance does the left want to silence voices?

Well, from inside the Obama admin there was an attempt to sideline conservative media asking lib media not mention them and stop funding for conservative radio. Even lib media balked as their 1A rights were being threatened. It was dropped, but it was attempted.

so that means it is the entire left? because someone had an idea?  
isn't that the same as saying all on the right hate gays due to a few of them hating them?

9/1/2010 3:21:40 PM

provideproof wrote:

Replying to XRIGHT:

King has no obligation to debate Campbell. If Campbell is short of funds he should seek exposure through a greater effort at fund raising or perhaps come up with some silly nonsensical drama that would get some free exposure from the DMR. Kinda like this article.

This would be a LETTER TO THE EDITOR, NOT an article by the DMR.

9/1/2010 3:23:19 PM

travelerljl wrote:

“Well, from inside the Obama admin there was an attempt to sideline conservative media asking lib media not mention them and stop funding for conservative radio. Even lib media balked as their 1A rights were being threatened. It was dropped, but it was attempted.” According to who?

9/1/2010 3:37:35 PM

travelerljl wrote:

“Oh, did I hurt someones wittle feelings??? Politics aint bean bag my friend! I was NOT put on this Earth to worry about anyone but ME ME ME!!! (Just kidding honey!)” Related to conversionthrapy? He’s another one who runs out of facts so tries to degrade people. Of course, I’m not sure he’s gay like you, but you never know.

9/1/2010 3:41:25 PM

Urbandaleguy wrote:

Steve King has a long long public voting record. In addition, this guy has probably been interviewed and been on more local and state wide talk shows than any other congressman in the hiustory of Iowa.

The voters in his district do not need him to debate anyone for them to know where he stands on the issues.

9/1/2010 3:56:37 PM

rickmeiers wrote:

Replying to Urbandaleguy:

Steve King has a long long public voting record. In addition, this guy has probably been interviewed and been on more local and state wide talk shows than any other congressman in the hiustory of Iowa.

The voters in his district do not need him to debate anyone for them to know where he stands on the issues.

yes we do.

he uses political double talk.

and makes outragous statements.

and i for one, as a voter in his district, want him to explain himself for his actions.

his voting record? nothing but a yes man to the right wing. there maybe a hube majority of republicans in this district, but he represents us all, and he should do that. and also explain himself for what he does and why.

9/1/2010 4:10:25 PM

PeaceMom wrote:

King is a blowhard. Who does he think he is by saying the other person didn’t earn a debate? King is a waste of hot air.

9/1/2010 4:36:01 PM

XRIGHT wrote:

Replying to travelerlj:

"Well, from inside the Obama admin there was an attempt to sideline conservative media asking lib media not mention them and stop funding for conservative radio. Even lib media balked as their 1A rights were being threatened. It was dropped, but it was attempted." According to who?

It was all over the media as it became known. It was fairly big news for a week or more. If you search you find it is the truth. People in the Obama administration requested that liberal media outlets stop referring to Fox and other conserv media to keep them out of the news and marginalize their influence. Also to brand Fox as not journalistic to keep any Fox reporters out of the White House Press pool. In other words, to shut them out. This is no little known fact. Where were you? Not listening? And you demand from our camp that we not make judgements based on assumptions?

9/1/2010 4:47:07 PM

XRIGHT wrote:

Replying to PeaceMom:

King is a blowhard. Who does he think he is by saying the other person didn't earn a debate? King is a waste of hot air.

Translation: King doesn't bring in enough tax dollars to the 5th to allow his constituents to be properly addicted to the liberal tax drug. Campbell is the lib pusher of choice.

9/1/2010 4:52:34 PM

rickmeiers wrote:

Replying to XRIGHT:

It was all over the media as it became known. It was fairly big news for a week or more. If you search you find it is the truth. People in the Obama administration requested that liberal media outlets stop referring to Fox and other conserv media to keep them out of the news and marginalize their influence. Also to brand Fox as not journalistic to keep any Fox reporters out of the White House Press pool. In other words, to shut them out. This is no little known fact. Where were you? Not listening? And you demand from our camp that we not make judgements based on assumptions?

and i will ask again. if a few people on the left are doing it does that mean that all are? the original

statement was the left was trying to silence.....

so using your argument...some a few on the right hate gays....do all on the right hate them?

9/1/2010 5:01:11 PM

ponders wrote:

Replying to rickmeiers:

Replying to XRIGHT:

It was all over the media as it became known. It was fairly big news for a week or more. If you search you find it is the truth. People in the Obama administration requested that liberal media outlets stop referring to Fox and other conserv media to keep them out of the news and marginalize their influence. Also to brand Fox as not journalistic to keep any Fox reporters out of the White House Press pool. In other words, to shut them out. This is no little known fact. Where were you? Not listening? And you demand from our camp that we not make judgements based on assumptions?

and i will ask again. if a few people on the left are doing it does that mean that all are? the original statement was the left was trying to silence.....  
so using your argument...some a few on the right hate gays....do all on the right hate them?

No they all love them, hate the sin!

9/1/2010 5:23:14 PM

billybongz wrote:

Steve King is a coward.

9/1/2010 5:26:37 PM

Dingmann wrote:

Fox does news like MTV does music

9/1/2010 5:31:38 PM

rwhitten wrote:

There is no reason for a debate. If the voters from the 5<sup>th</sup> district have voted for him this many times, a debate won't make any difference. King's public statements have made him a laughingstock and apparently the 5<sup>th</sup> doesn't understand what everyone else is laughing about. They wouldn't likely understand a debate no matter how foolish Matt Campbell made him look.

9/1/2010 6:09:44 PM

StuntDonkey wrote:

King is a coward. He clings to his small minded holier than thou ways. Evidently that is what his district is comprised of but after redistricting he can kiss his seat goodbye. We will be rid of the most embarrassing politician in the state's history.

9/1/2010 6:27:54 PM

travelerjl wrote:

"And you demand from our camp that we not make judgements based on assumptions?" I made no such demand. Feigner did. After listening to some of what Fox has to offer, I can't say as I blame the President.

9/1/2010 8:03:37 PM

rickmeiers wrote:

Replying to ponders:

and i will ask again. if a few people on the left are doing it does that mean that all are? the original statement was the left was trying to silence.....  
so using your argument...some a few on the right hate gays....do all on the right hate them?

No they all love them, hate the sin!

so fred Phelps loves them? ernie pagels loves them? bill kellar loves them? mike savage loves them? you could have fooled me from their speech.

9/1/2010 8:34:17 PM

ConservativeKen wrote:

BTW - I agree that politicians should debate their opponents but Steve's point is probably that his opponent is not a serious opponent thus unworthy of serious debate. There are probably Green Party, Libertarian Party, and a few write in's with just as much chance to win against him so why would he give them a forum to push their views? Actually, the only way this nobody Campbell would get more than ten people would be if Steve King were on the same stage. That being the case, I think all candidates for office should be required to debate all registered opponents at least once - Steve King included.

An earlier post by a serial leftist claimed Matt McCoy debates his opponents. Really, show me ONE example of when Matt McCoy debated his opponent for his seat. tick tock tick tock tick tock

No worries, he still can, and Dave Leach even has a public access tv show so Matt McCoy should

follow his own admonition that voters deserve a debate and meet Dave Leach for the same!  
9/2/2010 2:39:56 AM

ConservativeKen wrote:

Personally, I believe Steve King should debate all registered opponents at least once. By the same token, hypocritical letter writer State Senator Matt McCoy should follow his own advice and debate his opponent Dave Leach. A previous serial leftist poster claimed Matt McCoy debates his opponents. I would love to see that one cited. Liberals just love to say anything to win a debate point but the internet age is exposing them for their endless hypocrisy. At least Matt McCoy could debate his opponent now that he, of all people, would write a letter telling another politician the voters deserve a debate. Follow your own advice Matt, and in sage advice of CPT Picard....MAKE IT SO! My guess is Matt will not debate, as usual, and will probably get reelected because he's in a safe Democrat district despite his gay lifestyle. These elections may turn very Republican/Tea Party and I suspect a bunch of judges will be booted as well. Matt McCoy (Barney Frank) shouldn't be too sure.  
9/2/2010 2:50:04 AM

XRIGHT wrote:

Replying to travelerlj:

"And you demand from our camp that we not make judgements based on assumptions?" I made no such demand. Feigner did. After listening to some of what Fox has to offer, I can't say as I blame the President.

You are right on that one. Fox has been scoring points against the Prez since day one and people are seeing the message clearer every day. The Prez would definitely like to silence them. How's that 'hope and change' workin' for ya?  
9/2/2010 8:24:37 AM

Urbandaleguy wrote:

Replying to rickmeiers:

he uses political double talk.  
and makes outrageous statements.  
and i for one, as a voter in his district, want him to explain himself for his actions.  
his voting record? nothing but a yes man to the right wing. there maybe a huge majority of republicans in this district, but he represents us all, and he should do that. and also explain himself for what he does and why.

YOU obviously are a Democrat or liberal and regardless of what he says in a debate will not vote for him. So, what is the difference. Anyone with half a brain can look at King's voting record and

hundreds of hours of interviews on talk shows and know what he stands for.

You either like what he represents or don't.

9/2/2010 8:34:00 AM

Urbandaleguy wrote:

Replying to PeaceMom:

King is a blowhard. Who does he think he is by saying the other person didn't earn a debate? King is a waste of hot air.

Please, show us exactly where it is written that any candidate must or even should engage their challengers in a debate? If you can do that, I will acknowledge that you are right.

9/2/2010 8:36:24 AM

Urbandaleguy wrote:

Replying to billybongz:

Steve King is a coward.

That is it? That is what the liberals have to fight King with? Calling him a coward? LOL You folks really are desperate, aren't you?

So, since Tom Harking refuses to ever be a guest on any state wide local talk show, he too is a coward?

9/2/2010 8:39:18 AM

Urbandaleguy wrote:

Replying to StuntDonkey:

King is a coward. He clings to his small minded holier than thou ways. Evidently that is what his district is comprised of but after redistricting he can kiss his seat goodbye. We will be rid of the most embarrassing politician in the state's history.

Typical liberal tactics. If you do not like what a majority in a district believe ... just redraw the lines. Very pathetic. Very sad.

9/2/2010 8:40:38 AM

Urbandaleguy wrote:

Replying to rickmeiers:

Replying to ponders:

and i will ask again. if a few people on the left are doing it does that mean that all are? the original statement was the left was trying to silence.....  
so using your argument...some a few on the right hate gays....do all on the right hate them?

No they all love them, hate the sin!

so fred phelps loves them? ernie pagels loves them? bill kellar loves them? mike savage loves them?  
you could have fooled me from their speech.

I agree. These people are really big on saying, "hate the sin, love the sinner", but they are liars. They are not patient, and kind, and slow to anger with them. They do not love them. They dispise them. And by doing so, in some way make themselves feel better about their own transgretions.

RE: Conservative Ken, I suspect he is fighting off his own internal struggle with his own gay thoughts.  
9/2/2010 8:43:16 AM

ponders wrote:

Replying to rickmeiers:

Replying to ponders:

and i will ask again. if a few people on the left are doing it does that mean that all are? the original statement was the left was trying to silence.....  
so using your argument...some a few on the right hate gays....do all on the right hate them?

No they all love them, hate the sin!

so fred phelps loves them? ernie pagels loves them? bill kellar loves them? mike savage loves them?  
you could have fooled me from their speech.

I sometimes say things with sarcasm. I should probably make note of that for those experiencing my "wit" for the first time. (said with wit not self-promotion). I have always laughed at the love the sinner hate the sin excuse for bigotry. (even expressed it to a church full of people that I no longer belong to). Sorry for the confusion.

ConservativeKen wrote:

My point is Matt McCoy does not debate Dave Leach so he is quite the hypocrite to call out Steve King on this one.

And no, I am not in any struggle against homosexuality, I find the actual practice to be revolting. I have never engaged in it nor tried it. The assault on real marriage is what woke me up to this abomination and their part of the liberal agenda to destroy family and morality. I believe any society that embraces homosexuality will bring God's wrath. The gay agenda is definitely not harmless and so called gay and liberal Christians have as much in common with Jesus as Buddhists, Muslims, and everyone else who rejects Jesus as Savior. They can call themselves Christians but they deny the main points of the Gospel. They twist it to be a social agenda and attack Christians who do what the Gospel says to do. Unfortunately, these so called Christians are held up by non-Christians as an example to deny sin and the Bible. It is apostasy pretending to be Christianity.

9/2/2010 11:56:02 AM

Urbandaleguy wrote:

Replying to ConservativeKen:

The assault on real marriage is what woke me up to this abomination and their part of the liberal agenda to destroy family and morality. I believe any society that embraces homosexuality will bring God's wrath.

Okay.

Other than your interpretation of what God wants or does not want, tell us exactly what assault on "real" marriage is SSM doing. Also, tell us all exactly what harm, damage or injury ANY "real" (I assume you mean heterosexual) marriage incurs by SSM?

We have had SSM in Iowa for over a year. Do you have even one example of how any traditional heterosexual marriage or family has been harmed by SSM?

9/2/2010 2:38:28 PM

Urbandaleguy wrote:

Replying to ConservativeKen:

My point is Matt McCoy does not debate Dave Leach so he is quite the hypocrite to call out Steve King on this one.

Forgot to mention, I do agree with that statement.

9/2/2010 2:40:26 PM

DaveLeach wrote:

I accept Matt McCoy's offer to debate me, which I take from his Sept 1 Letter to the Editor challenging Steve King to debate his opponent Matt Campbell.

McCoy explained that he believes candidates have "an obligation to ensure voters get a full and fair hearing on all candidate's positions." I couldn't agree more!

McCoy said a "duly elected" incumbent has a "responsibility to ensure his constituents are able to make an informed decision about their candidates." I am grateful that McCoy shares my view of these things.

Since it is not possible that he would believe these principles apply to others and not himself, I take his letter as an invitation to me to debate him. I gratefully accept, and look forward to negotiating the details with him.

McCoy is right, to equate willingness to debate with "dedicat[ion]...to...democracy and [the] constitution". Freedom, even of "offensive" speech, was the first right protected in our Bill of Rights because democracy requires it.

9/3/2010 12:02:56 AM

ConservativeKen wrote:

Replying to Urbandaleguy:

Replying to ConservativeKen:

My point is Matt McCoy does not debate Dave Leach so he is quite the hypocrite to call out Steve King on this one.

Forgot to mention, I do agree with that statement.

It is hard to disagree with it especially when McCoy threw down the standard that he apparently does not employ in his own race.

9/3/2010 6:40:18 AM

ConservativeKen wrote:

Replying to Urbandaleguy:

Replying to ConservativeKen:

The assault on real marriage is what woke me up to this abomination and their part of the liberal agenda to destroy family and morality. I believe any society that embraces homosexuality will bring God's wrath.

Okay.

Other than your interpretation of what God wants or does not want, tell us exactly what assault on "real" marriage is SSM doing. Also, tell us all exactly what harm, damage or injury ANY "real" (I assume you mean heterosexual) marriage incurs by SSM?

We have had SSM in Iowa for over a year. Do you have even one example of how any traditional heterosexual marriage or family has been harmed by SSM?

See where society will go with "Equal Protection" run amok once we remove every other basis for the law. See my final posts for this process.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/comments/article/20100902/OPINION04/9020325/Be-careful-what-you-wish-for-on-judges>

9/3/2010 6:45:19 AM

RoninSan wrote:

King is following the tried and true tradition of since when did holding public office mean this was public? After all he wouldn't want to embarrass himself in public – again.

9/3/2010 6:47:50 AM

