

Atlantic County Republican chairman accepts Democrats' invitation to debate for freeholder candidates

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The Atlantic County Republican chairman said he would accept his Democratic counterpart's invitation for a debate between county freeholder candidates.

Democratic chairman Jim Schroeder sent a letter to Republican Keith Davis earlier this week requesting a debate, adding that The Hughes Center for Public Policy at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey "has agreed to host, provide a venue, the moderator and the questioners for this debate."



*Paid 300x250 Bobs garden (MTP) **

Ventnor attorney Stephen P. Dicht is running as a Democrat against Republican Freeholder Chairman Frank Formica for the 2nd District seat, Democratic Atlantic City attorney Colin Bell is facing Republican Freeholder Frank Giordano for an at-large seat, while Hammonton resident Erica Polito, a teacher in Port Republic, is the Democratic challenger for the 5th District seat against Republican Freeholder Jim Bertino.

"Our candidates — Colin Bell, Stephen Dicht and Erica Polito — stand ready to debate and discuss those issues that affect all the residents of Atlantic County," Schroeder said in a statement Friday. "Right now, we are waiting for word from Frank Formica, Frank Giordano and Jim Bertino to see if they will meet with our

candidates at this forum."

Davis said Friday: "I'm absolutely happy to have a debate. I just got a letter out to Jim Schroeder asking to set up a meeting to begin discussions."

Davis added that he was surprised Schroeder announced his request to debate in a press release before he had received a response.

"It's really unfair to have to negotiate these things by way of PR," Davis said. "Jim Schroeder knows me, he has my phone number. It's very easy to reach out to me."

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