

default avatar Welcome to the site! Login or Signup below.

default avatar Welcome to the site! Login or Signup below.

2nd Congressional District / LoBiondo should debate

The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey had planned a debate between Republican Rep. Frank LoBiondo and Democratic challenger Cassandra Shober - but LoBiondo had declined to participate.

His decision not to debate is a disservice to voters in his district.

And it gets worse.

Campaign manager Ron Filan explained the decision by saying the LoBiondo campaign did not think Shober shown her seriousness to this campaign nor the office for which she seeks."

Say what?

That statement makes the needle spin off the arrogance meter.

This is not LoBiondo's call. It's not up to a candidate to determine the legitimacy of a political opponent. No LoBiondo's campaign should need to be reminded of this, and no one should be surprised that the statement is such a sour note.

Let's stipulate that debating skill isn't the most important prerequisite for public office. And in some debate formats, candidates simply dodge questions as they repeat their practiced talking points.

But as imperfect as they can be, debates are still the best forum for allowing voters to see and hear candidates side-by-side. When they work, they can help crystallize the choice that voters have to make.

Still, strange things can happen in any live forum. LoBiondo was burned a couple of years ago at a public hearing when a questioner asked him to recite passages from the Constitution and then posted a YouTube video of the exchange. (For the record, we don't think it's necessary for our federal representatives to have the Constitution memorized. They just need to keep a copy handy.)

And incumbents often refuse to debate. They have the most to lose, after all. But it's especially ironic for LoBiondo to use such a heavy hand wielding the power of the incumbency when he was elected 18 years ago in a wave of anti-incumbency fervor, as he and Republicans nationwide were calling for term limits.

In that first campaign in 1994, LoBiondo said, "I think part of the trouble we're having in Washington is because members of Congress have been there too long. They don't have to come back to the real world."

LoBiondo has long since reneged on his pledge to abide by term limits. But even his political foes would have a hard time accusing him of being out of touch with his district - he makes frequent local appearances and speaks to many civic groups.

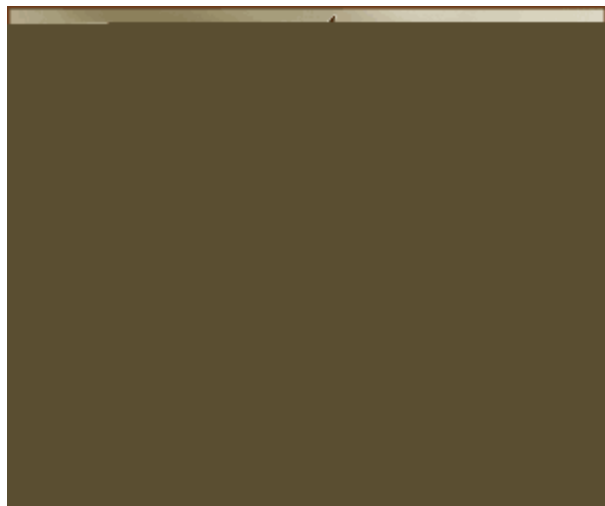
So why take such an arrogant no-debate position that so effectively makes him seem as though he is out o

Posted in Editorials on Wednesday, September 19, 2012 12:01 am.

Story Commenting Notice

PressofAtlanticCity.com uses Facebook as its primary method for story commenting on the site. This feature allows you to share easily content and comments with your social network, and you will be able to see what your friends and other PressofAtlanticCity.com readers are responding to as well. Simply log into Facebook below to post your comment. View our full terms of service and privacy agreement

[Click here to report a comment as abusive.](#)



Paid 300x250 Brigantine Golf Links / The Links at Brigantine-Atl County-Blinder *

My Shore Deals powered by ReferLocal

Opinion Home

- Editorial Cartoons
- Commentary
- Editorials
- Letters
- Recent Polls
- Your Lawmakers

Connect with us

- Twitter
- Mobile
- Newsletter
- Blogs

WHEELSREAL ESTATEJOBSCCLASSIFIEDSBIZ FINDER

Scion tC: Cool Coupe Looks, Affordable, Efficient



The 2012 Scion tC is an affordably priced high-impact car comprised of elements that are both simple and unique. Dynan driving characteristics are wrapped in a package of aggressive styling in a three-door coupe liftback format with a premium...
[More »](#)

www.motormatters.biz

SEARCH WHEELS

Search for Wheels



Place A Classified Ad »



Latest Reader Photos

Paid-295x100-Causeway Auto Vehicle Sponserhip Widget



Click here to enter and view entries!



Photo By: Flying Jack

Photo By: Flying Jack

[View All Reader Photos »](#)

[Submit your own photos »](#)



Promo - 170x90 Subscribe Home Delivery PAC Button

© Copyright 2012, pressofAtlanticCity.com, Pleasantville, NJ, Powered by BLOX



default avatar default avatar Paid 300x250 Brigantine Golf Links / The Links at Brigantine-Atl County-Blinder * Paid-295x100-Causeway Auto Vehicle Sponserhip Widget Click here to enter and view entries! Promo - 170x90 Subscribe Home Delivery PAC Button