

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."



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

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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

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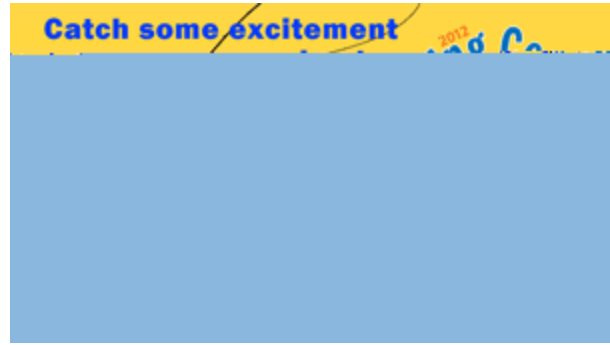
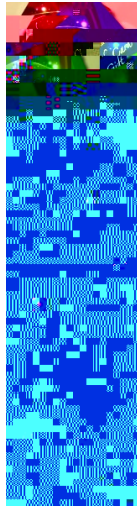
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