

ALERT TOP STORY

Two GOP candidates in Northwest Iowa state legislature races opted out of Sioux City League of Women Voters candidate event

Jared McNett

Oct 12, 2022

SIOUX CITY — Tuesday night's League of Women Voters Candidate Forum on the Western Iowa Tech Community College campus in Sioux City was a one-party affair.

Republican hopefuls Rocky De Witt and Bob Henderson, who are respectively running in Iowa Senate District 1 and Iowa House District 2, have decided not to participate in the informational event according to Dagna Simmons, the president of the local chapter of the 102-year-old nonprofit political organization.

"When all candidates do not attend these events, it is a disservice to the public. This is a great way for candidates to express their positions and a way for the public to compare what a candidate's position is," Simmons said via email.



Sioux City State Rep. Steve Hansen running for re-election

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Woodbury County GOP Chair Bob Henderson launches campaign for Iowa House seat

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Simmons noted the recent history of her group's various forums has been one of steady decline for GOP participation.

"During the legislative session, we hold Legislative Town Halls on the 4th Saturday of Jan., Feb. and March. 4-5 years ago, both parties were represented. We have noticed a gradual decline in attendance by the Republican legislators in the past couple of years," Simmons said.



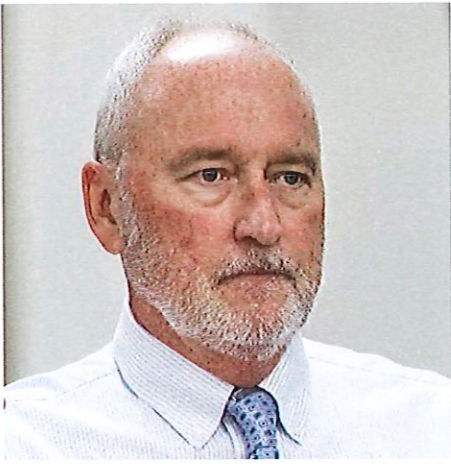
Rep. Randy Feenstra, challenger Ryan Melton continue to quarrel over debates "He does not expose himself to public scrutiny."

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More broadly, the number of forums and events featuring every candidate in a given race has lessened.

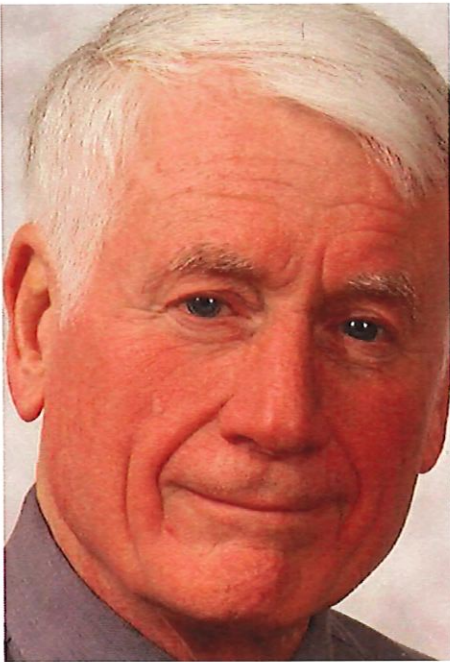
In Iowa's Fourth Congressional District race between Rep. Randy Feenstra (R-Hull), Ryan Melton (D-Nevada) and Bryan Holder (L-Council Bluffs), no official debate or town hall-type forum has been held. Melton and Feenstra have sparred twice already over the issue of joint events with Melton saying Feenstra "does not expose himself to public scrutiny" and Feenstra's campaign calling Melton an "out of touch liberal."

Deidre DeJear, the Democratic businesswoman running for governor, challenged incumbent Kim Reynolds to three debates but the governor's campaign agreed to only one to be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 17 on Iowa PBS. In the past decade,



De Witt

Tim Hynds, Sioux City Journal



Henderson

By Jared McNett

Online Editor
