

### Candidate Debates Could Be Stymied By Conditions

Editors note: The below story has been revised based upon new information pertaining to the issue. The earlier story reported that the Jackson County based schools had not received the form provided by the debate committee; and, while that was accurate at the story's deadline, that has now changed and the forum organizers have received the criteria, and forwarded it back to the debate committee. What remains true is the fact that the organizers' plans do not meet the criteria of the committee.

(KNZA)--It remains to be seen how a list of 10 conditions will affect local candidate forums, or debates, prior to the November general election.

The criteria comes from what's identified as the Republican Debate Committee, handling all appearance requests for local Republican candidates.

The committee Chairman, Rick Wright of Jackson County, has supplied all event organizers with the 10 conditions, saying negotiations for candidates, including Senator Dennis Pyle and Representative Randy Garber, to attend will only be discussed if the conditions are met. Wright, who calls the guidelines "well thought out" tells us in an email that representatives from the Nemaha, Jackson and Brown County Republican parties organized the committee to sort and prioritize the events. Wright states that the ongoing policy is that any debate or forum request that meets the established criteria will be considered and the committee will make a recommendation to candidates within three days.

Affected could be a planned Jackson County debate, being organized by a group of students working together to make it happen(Play Audio)

That's Royal Valley instructor Nate McAlister(Play Audio)

Pyle's lack of confirmation likely hinges on the terms drafted by the Republican Debate Committee, which mandates that federal candidates must be included, which is not part of the student's forum.

McAlister, working to help the students organize the forum, has now responded to the committee's demands, tentatively accepting the conditions but only if some adjustments will be accepted.

When we contacted Wright, he clarified that favorites will not be played, and the high school students would be held to the same terms as any other organizers.

The terms state that debates and forums can not be held in a government building during the day. The student debate would be held at 7:00 on the evening of October 10th.

Pyle says he is leaving all arrangements in the hands of the committee, and is supplying them only with dates of his availability, and not other input.

Many Signals Communications