

Kansas Legislative Candidates Speak in Atchison

(KAIR) -- Two Democratic candidates vying for seats in the Kansas Legislature next year expressed their positions earlier this week at a forum sponsored by the Atchison Chamber of Commerce, however their Republican opponents did not.

Kansas Senate, District one candidate Steve Lukert and House District, 63 incumbent Jerry Henry were in attendance while their opponents Senator Dennis Pyle and actor/model Stephen Bodenhause were not in attendance.

That was due to a non-recommendation by the Republican Debate Committee, which oversees debate and forum requests for state candidates in multiple counties in northeast Kansas.

The committee cited that the forum didn't meet some of the 10 criteria items necessary for recommendation.

Representative Henry addressed several topics, including income tax, tourism and local issues.

He also addressed the topic of education for next year's budget.

(Play Audio) RT: :26

Lukert then took questions addressing attendance at forums and debates, relations with constituency and three issues he said his opponent doesn't want to talk about: education, spending priorities and the new tax plan.

On the tax plan, Lukert says it's based on an experiment.

(Audio Continues) RT: :27

The Chamber intends to re-broadcast the forum on the local access cable channel as well as post it to the web.

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