

Letter to Dave Oliveria, other members of the press, and the citizens of Coeur d'Alene,

I am writing you Dave Oliveria and you Mike Patrick to ask that you use whatever press influence you have to include the representatives who are in contested local state races in some form of local debate that is televised, recorded in writing, or audio recorded. Perhaps filmed and recorded after the governor's debate, scheduled for Oct. 3, 12 noon, at Cd'A Library. I have not been sent any invitation from the Coeur Group to debate at the present time. So the timing of this request is of the essence. Paula Neils our Democratic chair has tried to contact the Coeur Group without success.

This is not even about winning or losing, but posing the right questions and potential answers we are all facing in Coeur d'Alene and the state. Citizens cannot make informed decisions on voting without candidate information. As you know our living wages are the lowest in the nation. Educational investment that directly applies to future jobs is within the two bottom states of the nation. And the amount of money circulating in our economy is so low that state fiscal offices say we have money only to spend on the basics of housing and food, the lowest amount on average of disposable income in the nation.

If we do not debate we simply cannot possibly start to solve these many problems.

A representative form of government and debate is the most important aspect of a working democracy. If we do not listen to debate and problem solving in our communities, we will not succeed as a state or a nation. We will not meet the changing needs of the future for our people. And the governor is not the only position that is crucial. All of the local legislators are crucial as well.

Anne Nesse,  
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