



**For Immediate Release  
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**For more information contact:**  
Mary Heller  
Debate Minnesota Administrative Director  
Phone: 651-687-9080; FAX: 651-687-9387  
[mheller@communitybanks.org](mailto:mheller@communitybanks.org)

## **Debate Minnesota Promotes Civility in Politics 2006 Debate Schedule Announced**

**Eagan, Minn., September 13, 2006**—Debate Minnesota 2006 returns for an important election year. Led by a multi-partisan board of directors, the Debate Minnesota Foundation aims to promote civility in politics and engage voters with fair and open forums that highlight candidates' views on particular issues.

Debate Minnesota's inaugural year hosted 19 debates in 19 districts around the state to wide acclaim. In 2006, 15 debates are scheduled, including races for the U.S. Senate, Governor, and the First, Sixth, and Eighth Congressional Districts, as well as 10 key state legislative races (full schedule on page 2).

The famous Lincoln-Douglas debates during the 1858 Illinois Senatorial election were the inspiration for the Debate Minnesota mission. That year, the public square became an opportunity to exchange ideas and ideals, and a platform for the people to shape the country.

“With Debate Minnesota, we are supporting a process by which Minnesotans can gain a clear and concise understanding of what candidates for elected office want for their communities and how they propose to accomplish their goals,” said Will Haddeland, founder and President of Debate Minnesota and CEO and President of Independent Community Bankers of Minnesota.

Debate Minnesota was established by the Independent Community Bankers of Minnesota, a non-profit association of independent, community-focused banks. Other sponsoring partners include Minnesota Sun Newspapers and the Minnesota Cable Communications Association.

“We must return civility and respect to our political process through debates that focus on our citizens' hunger for reliable information,” said former State Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe and Debate Minnesota Board member.

The Debate Minnesota board of directors includes former Governor Al Quie; former U.S. Senator David Durenberger; former Minnesota State Attorney General Hubert H. Humphrey III; former State Senator Roger D. Moe; former State Senator Roy W. Terwilliger; former Minnesota Secretary of State Joan Anderson Growe; and ICBM President and CEO Will Haddeland. Additional board members include leaders from community banking and the media.

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**About the Debate Minnesota Foundation:** Debate Minnesota is a non-profit, tax-exempt, and multi-partisan foundation that administers debates within all applicable legal requirements including regulations of the Federal Election Commission and the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Disclosure Board. The Foundation spearheads debate roundtables to encourage public participation in the election process. Learn more about this unique project at [www.debateminnesota.org](http://www.debateminnesota.org).

**About the ICBM:** The Independent Community Bankers of Minnesota was established in 1962 as an association of independent, community-focused banks providing active leadership for its members on programs, products, services, and the preservation of a competitive environment. ICBM is dedicated to enhancing community banks for the benefit of consumers, small businesses, and family farms. For more information visit [www.communitybanks.org](http://www.communitybanks.org).

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This publication is not published on behalf of any candidate or ballot question.

## 2006 Debate Minnesota Schedule

Please see updates and complete information at [www.debateminnesota.org](http://www.debateminnesota.org)

### U. S. Senate Seat

**Congressman Mark Kennedy (R)**

**Amy Klobuchar (D)**

Tuesday, Oct. 10 at 7:00 p.m.  
Knutson Center/Centrum  
Concordia College; Moorhead

### U.S. House 1st District

**Gil Gutknecht (R)**

**Tim Walz (D)**

Thursday, Oct. 19 at 7:00 p.m.  
Meyer Hall Auditorium  
Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato

### U.S. House 6th District

**Michele Bachmann (R)**

**Patty Wetterling (D)**

Thursday, Sept. 21 at 7:00 p.m.  
Woodbury Amphitheater; Woodbury

### U.S. House 8th District

**Jim Oberstar (D)**

**Rod Grams (R)**

Tuesday, Oct. 17 at 8:00 p.m.  
Reif Performing Arts Center; Grand Rapids

### Governor

**Tim Pawlenty (R)**

**Mike Hatch (DFL)**

**Peter Hutchinson (I)**

Wednesday, Sept. 27 at 7:00 p.m.  
Ted Mann Concert Hall, U of M, Minneapolis

### MN Senate District 8

**Dan Stevens (R)**

**Tony Lourey (DFL)**

Wednesday, Oct. 11 at 7:00 p.m.  
Paradise Theater, Mora

### MN Senate District 23

**Mark Piepho (R)**

**Kathy Sheran (DFL)**

Thursday, Oct. 5 at 7:00 p.m.  
Meyer Hall Auditorium  
Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato

### MN Senate District 30

**Dr. Scott Wright (R)**

**Ann Lynch (DFL)**

Wednesday, Oct. 18 at 7:00 p.m.  
Charles Hill Theater  
University Center Rochester, Rochester

### MN Senate District 43

**Sen. Terri Bonoff (DFL)**

**Judy Johnson (R)**

Thursday, Sept. 28 at 7:00 p.m.  
Plymouth Creek Center, Black Box Theater  
Plymouth

### MN Senate District 52

**Rep. Ray Vandevener (R)**

**David Frances (DFL)**

Thursday, Oct. 12 at 7:00 p.m.  
Hugo/Stillwater

### MN House District 43B

**Dave Johnson (R)**

**John Benson (DFL)**

Wednesday, Sept. 13 at 7:00 p.m.  
Minnetonka Community Center  
Council Chambers, Minnetonka

### MN House District 15A

**Steve Gottwalt (R)**

**Diane Murphy-Podawiltz (DFL)**

Thursday, Sept. 14 at 7:00 p.m.  
Library/Miller Center Auditorium  
St. Cloud State University; St. Cloud

### MN House District 30B

**Rep. Andy Welti (DFL)**

**Bill Kuisle (R)**

Tuesday, Sept. 26 at 7:00 p.m.  
Jon Hassler Theater; Plainview

### MN House District 51A

**Brad Biers (R)**

**Scott Kranz (DFL)**

Tuesday, Oct. 3 at 7:00 p.m.  
Blaine

### MN House District 27A

**Matt Benda (R)**

**Robin Brown (DFL)**

Tuesday, Oct. 24 at 7:00 p.m.  
Albert Lea