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**Indiana Debate Commission Offers Gubernatorial Candidates Three Dates
South, North and Central Indiana Venues also Confirmed**

INDIANAPOLIS—Indiana gubernatorial candidates have been provided three dates and locations around the state to participate in public debates this fall, according to the Indiana Debate Commission.

The dates and locations are:

- Tuesday, September 16, Merrillville, Ind.
- Tuesday, September 23, Jasper, Ind.
- Tuesday, October 14, Bloomington, Ind.

The debates are likely to be evening events and will be open to the public.

One of the commission's 13 affiliate groups, The Indiana Public Broadcasting Stations, will be donating remote production facilities to produce and air the live debates. The Indiana Debate Commission will make satellite time available so that any television or radio broadcaster in Indiana may carry the debate for free.

The Indiana Debate Commission's commitment is to share the three debates with as many Hoosier voters as possible.

Ten venues, from commercial theaters to private high schools, submitted applications by the May 31 deadline to be considered for a minimum of three debate locations and each was visited by volunteer review teams. Site visits took a minimum of two hours.

"The review process was rigorous and our decision-making process led us to these locations and available times," said Kevin Finch, president of the commission and news director of WISH-TV in Indianapolis. "The venues selected—Star Plaza Theatre, Jasper Arts Center and Indiana University Auditorium—are also giving generously of their professional staff and support services to guarantee the best forums for candidates as well as voters."

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The commission sent formal invitations recently to Gov. Mitch Daniels, Democrat and Libertarian candidates Jill Long Thompson and Andy Horning.

“Never before has there been such a diverse group in place for setting standards and providing candidates with a level playing field—and providing them with the ability to address such a wide audience of voters,” said Gerry Lanosga, an associate professor at Indiana University-Bloomington and also a commission board member.

The commission, which is a nonprofit coalition that began meeting in February 2007, represents statewide citizen groups as well as media groups. Many of its members have experience with debate scheduling and formats, either in a volunteer or professional capacity.

About the Indiana Debate Commission

The Indiana Debate Commission is a non-partisan, statewide group of affiliate organizations dedicated to promoting debates at the state level. Incorporated in the fall of 2007, the IDC will work with candidates, sponsors, venues and citizen groups to promote open, unbiased and transparent debates for Hoosier voters. For more information visit: www.indianadebatecommission.com

Indiana Debate Commission Affiliates

- Indiana Coalition for Open Government
- Indiana Associated Press Managing Editors
- Indianapolis Association of Black Journalists
- Indiana Associated Press Broadcasters Association
- Marion County Alliance of Neighborhood Associations
- The Indiana Public Broadcasting Stations (IPBS)
- The Indiana Broadcasters Foundation
- Indiana Professional Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists
- League of Women Voters of Indiana
- The Radio-Television News Directors Association
- AARP
- Hoosier State Press Association
- Indiana State Bar Association

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