

Chances fade for debate

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Chances for a possible face-to-face debate between the two gubernatorial contenders in Idaho Falls have evaporated.

The Zonta Club of Idaho Falls had expressed interest in sponsoring a debate between Democratic Gov. John V. Evans and his Republican challenger, Lt. Gov. Philip E. Batt.

However Susan Ohman, of Zonta, said the club has given up efforts for getting the two contenders together for a fourth and final debate.

The dates don't appear as much a stumbling block as does the format.

The governor wants a town hall type in which audience can ask the questions while Batt insists on questions asked from a panel of newsmen.

Batt said he would favor a final one along this type in Idaho Falls but Frank Olander, of the governor's campaign staff, insists on audience participation to give a broader range in discussions.

Olander said the governor would make dates available for further debates along this line. The governor plans to be in Idaho Falls Oct. 25 and again Oct. 30.

Batt plans visits here Wednesday and Thursday and again Oct. 22.

The two have held town hall type of meetings in Caldwell, Twin Falls and Lewiston, plus a debate via public television over the Pocatello, Boise and Moscow stations.

In all three cases, they fielded questions from the audience.