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Iowa Press 2022 4th Congressional District Debate

Batt, Andrew <andrewb@iowapbs.org>

Tue, Oct 4, 2022 at 12:00 PM

To: Bryan Jack Holder <bjh12572@gmail.com>

Cc: candidatecriteria@iowapbs.org, Molly Phillips <molly@iowapbs.org>

Dear Mr. Holder:

Thank you for your email, dated September 30, 2022, asking for equal opportunities on, and reasonable access, to Iowa PBS under the Communications Act of 1934, federal law and state law.

Iowa PBS has consulted with its FCC communications counsel about your request and the applicable political broadcasting laws. Iowa PBS has determined that the equal opportunities provisions of Section 315 of the Communications Act do not apply here. The candidate appearance on which you base your equal opportunities request (Candidate Ryan Melton on September 23, 2023, on Iowa Press) is exempt from equal opportunities based on a news exemption. Iowa Press is a bona fide news interview program and, therefore exempt from equal opportunities under Section 315(a)(3) of the Communications Act.

Iowa PBS has also determined that the reasonable access provisions of Section 312(a)(7) of the Communications Act do not apply either. According to the language in the federal statute, noncommercial educational TV stations, like those of Iowa PBS, are categorically exempt from reasonable access requirements.

As your email notes, Iowa Press is not broadcasting a debate for the 4th Congressional District for the upcoming general election.

Thank you for your interest in Iowa PBS's election coverage.

Andrew Batt
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