

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why won't Rokita accept League's forum invitation?

Prior to the 2014 election, rather than debate challenger John Dale, 4th Congressional District Rep. Todd Rokita attended the Elephant Stampede, an annual Howard County GOP fundraiser in Kokomo, denying Dale the half-hour of air time WLFI set aside for a televised debate. Instead, Rokita agreed to appear with Dale at a Danville High School forum immediately followed by the tail end of a League of Women Voters forum at Crawfordsville High School — preferred, GOP-friendly sites at which he speaks sound bites to the choir.

Fast forward to 2016, Rokita hasn't yet responded to a League of Women Voters debate request. Given GOP incumbents' unwillingness to go shoulder to shoulder with challengers, it is likely that Rokita's campaign will again invoke scheduling difficulties to justify declining the League invitation.

So, how can conscientious District 4 voters prepare to make an informed choice for this important office? Try Vote Smart (www.votesmart.org). According to the New York Times, "Experts nearly all recommend Vote Smart." Its mission is to provide free, factual, unbiased information on candidates and elected officials.

Candidates are encouraged to take its Political Courage Test, which measures a candidate's willingness to provide citizens with their positions on key issues.

A click on "John Dale" yields "John Dale has provided voters with clear stances on key issues by responding to the (Political Courage Test)." A click on "Todd Rokita" yields "Urge Todd Rokita to fill out the (Political Courage Test)."

For a representative with political courage, vote John Dale (teacher, wrestling coach, farmer, husband, father, NRA member).

Roberta Schonemann West Lafayette