# Debate Commission Sparks Controversy by Omitting State Auditor Debate while North Dakota Candidates Discuss Key Issues



The Utah Debate Commission will be hosting six debates ahead of the June 25 Republican primary election but has opted not to hold a debate for the state auditor's race. This has led to frustration among candidates, including Deputy State Auditor Tina Cannon, who emphasized the importance of educating the public about the auditor's office. Her primary opponent, Ricky Hatch, also supported the need for such a debate. This office is responsible for ensuring compliance with state law and proper use of taxpayer funds by over 1,800 government entities. The commission, which has traditionally not covered auditor debates since its inception in 2013, cites limited resources and a focus on major races as reasons. The commission may consider adding an auditor's debate in the future.

In North Dakota, Republican candidates for governor, Kelly Armstrong and Tammy Miller, debated key issues ahead of the June 11 primary. Topics included the enforcement of House Bill 1522, which affects transgender students, the COVID-19 response, and mental health challenges. Armstrong advocated for strict law enforcement and punitive measures against school officials who defy state laws, while Miller emphasized corrective actions that avoid punishing students. On pandemic response, Miller highlighted the quick and balanced approach of North Dakota, while Armstrong critiqued the lack of consistency in policy enforcement. Both candidates agreed on the need for better mental health services, with Armstrong suggesting tele-health expansion and Miller calling for universal licensure to facilitate the relocation of professionals.