

Search
Cincinnati[All](#) [Local News](#) [Jobs](#) [Directory](#) [More »](#)

go

Sponsored by:

[apartments.com](#)[HOME](#) | [NEWS](#) | [SPORTS](#) | [ENTERTAINMENT](#) | [LIVING](#) | [BUSINESS](#) | [COMMUNITIES](#) | [OPINION](#) | [PHOTOS & VIDEOS](#) | [OBITS](#) | [WEATHER](#) | [BLOGS & FORUMS](#)[MAIN](#) | [NEWS & OPINION BLOGS](#) | [SPORTS BLOGS](#) | [ENTERTAINMENT BLOGS](#) | [LIVING BLOGS](#) | [YOUR BLOGS](#) | [MESSAGE BOARDS](#)

Comment, blog & share photos

[Log in](#) | [Become a member](#)Community Driven by You
and The Cincinnati Enquirer and Community Press

Blogs

[Cincinnati.Com » Voices & Views » Blogs](#)
Last Updated: 11:57 am | Sunday, October 19, 2008[Jump to another blog](#)

Thinking Out Loud

Personal opinions, arguments, questions and answers from members of the Enquirer Editorial Board.



Dodging debate no way for a grown Congressman to behave

Posted by [DennisHetzel](#) at 10/18/2008 12:23 PM EDT

I am a naive purist on the subject of candidate forums. Joint appearances by opposing candidates provide one of the best ways for voters to size people up. I think candidates have an obligation to at least make one or two appearances with their opponents, even if they are leading by wide margins or don't think much of their foes.

Beyond one or two forums, I don't have a problem with the calculus of politics coming into play.

With the above in mind, I understand why Rep. Geoff Davis, R-Hebron, isn't interested in appearing on the same platform with his Democratic opponent, Oldham County doctor Michael Kelley. His latest dodge came this week when **he refused to appear jointly on Channel 12's "Newsmakers" program.**

Kelley, as we said in our editorial endorsing Davis, doesn't appear to have much of a chance and hasn't run much of a campaign. But he's not a kook. I certainly can tell you the hour our editorial board spent with him was valuable and interesting. He has the passion and intelligence to have a bright political future, but Davis can hold his own with anybody when it comes to policy discussions.

Davis wouldn't appear with Kelley in front of The Enquirer editorial board and wouldn't appear with him at a forum sponsored by Kentucky Education Television. And it was made clear that there was no way he would appear at a televised and Web-casted forum sponsored by The Enquirer/NKY.com, The NKY Chamber of Commerce and the Telecommunications Board of Northern Kentucky. (You can go to NKY.com's video channel or TBNK.org to see archived versions of the four forums we held.)

It would be classy and correct for Davis to make at least one or two joint appearances with Kelley. It simply is the right thing to do. Instead, he reminds us that civic obligation has nothing to do with getting elected.

[Comments \(1\)](#) | [Permanent Link](#)Tags: [Davis](#), [Kelley](#), [Congress](#)[Email this post](#)[Recommend](#)[Report Abuse](#)[XmasCurtain](#) wrote:

Geoff Davis cares more about politics than serving the public. NKY deserves a better congressman.

10/18/2008 6:43 PM EDT

[Recommend \(3\)](#)[Report Abuse](#)

Recent Entries

[Dodging debate no way for a grown Congressman to behave](#)[Mayor Mallory earns his Bengal stripes](#)[Who gets this hospital bill?](#)[Foolproof investments](#)[A "big, hairy goal" for Kentucky's future](#)

Archives

[May \(4\)](#)[June \(30\)](#)[July \(39\)](#)[August \(30\)](#)[September \(35\)](#)[October \(23\)](#)

Most Recent Tags

[Congress](#)[Kelley](#)[Davis](#)[education](#)[Kentucky](#)[underground](#)[weather](#)[ayers](#)[McCain](#)[republican](#)

Blog Roll

[Today at the Forum Archive](#)[Borgblog](#)