

Transcript of KETV News Coverage of October 17, 2016 OTOC Accountability Session

First, standing room only tonight as the candidates in Nebraska's hottest congressional race make their case. Good evening. I'm Rob McCartney. I'm Julie Cornell. Voters pack this northwest Omaha church hearing from Brad Ashford and Don Bacon in the race for District 2. It's our big story and the beginning of tonight's commitment 2016 coverage. KETV's newswatch Dave Roberts live near 90th and West Dodge.



If the candidates thought that you, the voter were not paying attention, they know that is not the case now. More than 350 people showed up tonight for a forum where they could question Don Bacon & Brad Ashford. (Gospel Choir from St. Benedict the Moor singing”) Gospel music promotes peace, but in this case, it is the calm before the political battle. *“I was here to hear Ashford and Bacon.” “I think it will be a close call between the two candidates.”* The headliners, Democratic congressman, Brad Ashford and the man who wants his seat, Republican Don Bacon. *“You get right down to the nitty-gritty, how do they think about certain issues”* (I don't want to break up families (Rep. Ashford speaking in background)).

The forum hosts, Omaha Together One Community, prohibits any display of partisan politics at its events so the audience can focus on issues, not party affiliation. Do you like that they're forced to leave partisan politics at the door? *“Absolutely.”* Why? *“Partisanship has moved the attention of the public away from the realities of the underlying issues.” “I like this forum style because we just get to hear the issues, it's not personalities.”* With debate and talking about political opponents prohibited, people felt they walked away with information, not prepared rhetoric. *“It wasn't really politicking, it was more giving a direct answer than pushing down the other candidate. So I like that format.”* The hottest issues of the night – Obamacare & illegal immigration. While most people leaving the event didn't really want to tell us who they were voting for, the mood of the room appeared split, which would indicate this is going to be close. Live in West Omaha, Dave Roberts, KETV Newswatch 7.