

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **SMALL CHALLENGES GRASSLEY TO ONLINE DEBATE**

IOWA CITY – In order to help Iowa voters make informed decisions, Art Small, Democratic Candidate for U.S. Senate, has challenged his opponent, Charles Grassley, to an online debate.

“In the current political climate of bumper sticker rhetoric and 10-second soundbytes, it is increasingly difficult for voters to find out where political candidates stand on contemporary issues,” Small wrote in his challenge letter to the incumbent Republican. “This debate will serve as an easily-accessible, written documentation of our positions on the issues.”

Although Grassley and Small are scheduled to meet later this month – on Iowa Public Television and again on WHO Radio – most Iowa voters won’t be able to tune in to those events, or ask the candidates questions. Senator Grassley’s staff said he was too busy to participate in debates hosted by the Cedar Rapids Gazette and League of Women Voters.

If Grassley accepts, the online debate, hosted by the non-partisan [www.printdebate.com](http://www.printdebate.com), will unfold over the next three weeks. Voters can check in on the debate on their own time, and post questions for the candidates to answer. If he declines, Small will be able to post some of his positions to the Web site.

This is the first election cycle Print Debate has been available. Organizers say they hope it will revolutionize contemporary political dialogue.

Earlier this summer, Senator Grassley declined to make his positions known through the nonpartisan Vote Smart Web site. He has until Oct. 10 at 5 p.m. to respond to this debate challenge.

On the Net:

[www.artsmallforsenate.com](http://www.artsmallforsenate.com)

[www.printdebate.com](http://www.printdebate.com)

[www.vote-smart.org](http://www.vote-smart.org)

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