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Ada Fisher Formally Challenges Melvin Watt to Print Debate Candidate is early adopter of new campaign forum

SALISBURY, N.C., Sept. 29—Dr. Ada M. Fisher, the Republican candidate for the North Carolina 12th District Congressional seat, formally challenged U.S. Rep. Melvin Watt (D-N.C.), to debate the issues in a unique new written format, the Print Debate. Watt has until 8 p.m. Sunday to respond. Fisher is the seventh candidate in the nation to issue a challenge in this new forum.

“I believe it is essential that we provide the citizens of the district with comparison information on the candidates’ positions so that they may make informed choices,” Fisher said in her challenge letter to Watt. “I believe that public discussion of issues is essential to free and democratic elections. In that spirit, I challenge you to a new form of public discussion, a Print Debate.”

The online Print Debate is a step-by-step process that founder John Connolly calls “a modern emulation of the Federalist Papers. It creates a truly level playing field, encouraging an open and in-depth exchange of political ideas between opposing candidates. During the four-round debate, candidates state their positions, express plans and initiatives, and answer questions from each other and the public.”

Citizens can participate in the Print Debate by posing questions to the candidates that will be included in the debate format. Because the debate takes place over several weeks, it promotes a thoughtful, substantive debate focused on the issues. The voting public can follow the entire debate, which will be available online and in print. If Watt rejects the challenge, Fisher posts her positions against an empty half-page.

“This will also be historic and a new type of forum to help voters appreciate their choices,” Fisher said.

Details of the Print Debate process and rules are at www.printdebate.com.

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