

The Record

10/25/15

Clifton officials nix debate

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The League of Women Voters had agreed to moderate a debate for the candidates running for the Clifton City Council in the Nov. 3 election.

Unfortunately, three of our council members (William Gibson, Joseph Kolodziej and Lauren E. Murphy) and the mayor voted not to have this debate. It is clear these officials do not believe voters have a right to hear from the candidates that seek to govern this city.

A very sad day for the people of Clifton, as I thought this was a government by the people and for the people. Thank you to Councilmen Peter Eagler, Steven Hatala and Joseph Cupoli for voting to hold this debate.

Why would anyone vote not to have this debate? What harm would it do to hear from the candidates on questions posed by the citizens and voters of Clifton, as has been done with board of education candidates and in previous city council elections? Shouldn't we the voters hear from the candidates on issues before we cast our votes?

The nonsensical reasons for not taking part in the debate ranged from "We had a meet and greet night at the Dutch Hill Civic Group" to "This was a last-minute request" to "We don't know who this group is."

In this election cycle, there has been only one small debate held by the Republican Club, which was not televised and which was attended by approximately 50 residents.

I never remember the League of Women Voters being denied the right to hold a candidates' debate in Clifton before.

Mary Sadrakula

Clifton, Oct. 22

The writer is a former member of the Clifton City Council.