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MICHAEL BRIDGFORD ACCEPTS INVITATION TO IOWA PRESS DEBATE FOR IOWA'S 1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

DAVENPORT, IA — August 13, 2026 — Independent candidate Michael Bridgford today officially accepted an invitation from Iowa PBS to participate in the upcoming *Iowa Press Debate* for Iowa's 1st Congressional District. Iowa PBS confirmed that Bridgford met all pre-established objective candidate criteria to qualify for the debate stage.

"I am honored to accept Iowa PBS's invitation and look forward to participating in a direct, substantive discussion about the issues that matter most to the families, workers, and communities of Iowa's 1st Congressional District," **said Michael Bridgford**. "Voters deserve an honest, unscripted look at where the candidates stand on the issues impacting their everyday lives, and I welcome the opportunity to present my platform, and offer voters a clear choice this November."

The 60-minute debate will take place this fall at Iowa PBS in Johnston, Iowa, and will be broadcast live statewide on Iowa PBS, alongside an embeddable livestream. The session will be moderated by Kay Henderson, joined by a panel of experienced Iowa political journalists. While the final date will be announced soon, the event is typically held in October.

Under Iowa PBS guidelines, the *Iowa Press* debate format features a free-flowing, 60-minute discussion where candidates sit side-by-side with moderators and journalists without canned opening or closing statements, allowing candidates to directly address policy issues and interact respectfully with one another. Iowa PBS requires a minimum of two candidates to agree to participate for the debate to proceed.

Bridgford's campaign formally confirmed acceptance of the terms and criteria today, urging all candidates on the ballot to participate.

"Debates are a fundamental part of our democratic process," **Bridgford added**. "I look forward to sitting down with the Republican and Democratic candidates for us to share our views and enable voters to make the best decision in the November election. "

About Michael Bridgford

Michael Bridgford is an Independent candidate running to represent Iowa's 1st Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. For more information about the campaign, visit www.bridgfordforiowa.com

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