



**Tuesday, June 01, 2010**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

(Raleigh, NC) Today NBC17 News was informed that Tim D'Annunzio, Republican candidate for the District Eight Congressional seat, has backed out on a signed commitment to participate in a televised debate on Tuesday, June 8, 2010, sponsored by NBC17, The Independent Tribune and The League of Women Voters of North Carolina.

On May 10, 2010, Mr. D'Annunzio signed "terms for participation" for the 60-minute debate negotiated by NBC17, The Independent Tribune and The League of Women Voters of North Carolina. Both campaigns agreed to those terms.

The purpose of the debate was to provide the voters with an opportunity to get answers from both candidates so that voters could make an informed decision on who to vote for in the June 22<sup>nd</sup> run-off election.

We are disappointed to learn that Mr. D'Annunzio is withdrawing from the debate on such short notice. In a statement to NBC17 News, Mr. D'Annunzio said:

*"This is to formally inform you that due to the collaboration between the Harold Johnson campaign and the news media to use partial truth, innuendo and accusations to unfairly smear me I have decided to withdraw from the debate that was to be taped on June 8, 2010. Harold Johnson has cancelled or refused numerous scheduled, live debates and is only willing to debate in a setting that can be controlled and altered by his allies..."*

NBC17 News provides fair, accurate and balanced coverage in our newscasts and debates. Because Mr. D'Annunzio has reneged on his word, and despite our efforts to negotiate with the D'Annunzio for Congress Campaign, we regret to inform the voters of North Carolina's Eighth District that we will be unable to provide the televised debate.

**WNCN**

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