

LOCAL AND NATIONAL NEWS

WQLN Debate



DANIEL SMITH / The Behrend Beacon
Republican incumbent Phil English

from front page.

was important because even though they're just running for Congress, it all relates to the big picture."

Many similarities were evident and reminiscent of the presidential candidates, in both substance and demeanor. Dahlkemper's views paralleled Obama's in many cases, but she did not speak with the eloquence or calm of her Democratic counterpart. Likewise, English has continued to cite himself as an "independent voice" in Congress, a phrase tangentially related to McCain's maverick message, speaking with a more easing pace and rhythm similar to Obama's tone.

The questions asked in the hour long debate ran a diverse gamut of subjects, ranging from the recent federal financial bailout to terroristic threats, home and abroad.

On the subject of the national debt and spending in Congress, the two butted heads over who had helped bolster the

nation's debt and who would further add to it. Dahlkemper said that it was the policies of both English and President Bush that pushed the national debt from \$5 trillion eight years ago to past \$10 trillion in 2008. English replied by accusing Dahlkemper of proposing the highest tax increase in history.

Both candidates also accused their rival of copying the other's energy plans. When Young asked a viewer's question on the subject of alternative energy plans, Dahlkemper reacted to English's response by calling it unusually similar to the plans she proposed when she first launched her campaign. English retorted with his own accusation, saying, "I think it is flattering that my opponent says I have been echoing her plan when she's been echoing mine. She needs to get her facts straight."

English and Dahlkemper were both challenged by questions regarding why they each felt they were qualified.

Dahlkemper said she was "not a group

politician... I'm a concerned citizen," citing her business and family life as qualifications to represent the people of Erie.

English fell back on his record. "You need experience to get things done in Congress," he said. "I think it's very important that we have someone in Congress who is an independent voice."

The Behrend Beacon asked both candidates what question they wished they would have been asked but was not. Dahlkemper expressed that she wished for more economical questions while English stated that he wanted more environmental subjects, such as ones discussing global warming or nuclear power.

Behrend students were able to talk directly to the candidates after they left their podiums and the program went off the air, marking one of the last chances for students to make up their minds before the Nov. 4 election.



DANIEL SMITH / The Behrend Beacon
Democrat Kathy Dahlkemper



DANIEL SMITH / The Behrend Beacon
Dahlkemper and English debated at the WQLN studios in downtown Erie.

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