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# Binghamton mayoral candidates agree significant belt-tightening is necessary

## Three debate at BU on Wednesday night

BY ERIC REINAGEL • EREINAGE@GANNETT.COM • OCTOBER 21, 2009, 11:13 PM

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No matter who is mayor of Binghamton next year, he is going to struggle.

Mayor Matthew T. Ryan told the more than 100 people Wednesday during the first mayoral debate between him, Rich David and Douglas Walter Drazen, that Albany needs to make significant reforms or cities throughout the state will face difficult times because of such things as rising pension costs.

"We're going to struggle together," said Ryan, a Democrat.

During the nearly two-hour debate at Binghamton University, candidates answered questions submitted from the crowd on issues ranging from city finances to the city's direction.

Drazen, who expressed concern about the Binghamton's declining middle- and upper-class population, bragged about being the only candidate who could personally take responsibility for increasing the city's population by having a daughter.

"I'm 50 percent responsible for the Binghamton population increasing by one," said Drazen, answering a question about his relationship with the city.

Drazen, an Independence Party candidate and Binghamton attorney, said he knows better than any other candidate what it's like for many average city residents who have to delay purchasing something a family member needs because a \$2,100 tax bill is due.

"I'm doing the things that the people paying the freight have to do every day," said Drazen.

David, a Republican who is a local business owner and Broome Community College spokesman, said his positive service as deputy mayor to former mayor Richard A. Bucci made him want to stay in the community. David said he purchased properties in the city and bought a nightclub and restaurant. He also has done charity work, he said.

During the debate, David separated his candidacy from the Bucci administration, but he also defended his former boss' performance as Ryan and David debated city tax increases.

Ryan said his administration has already instituted reforms to save taxpayers money and cut 44 city positions in his term. He also put together a commission that made recommendations to control costs, he said.

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Rich David, Mayor Matt Ryan and Douglas Walter Drazen debate Wednesday night at Binghamton University in Vestal. (ERIC REINAGEL / Staff Photo)

### SECOND DEBATE

The three candidates running for mayor of Binghamton will participate in a debate starting at 7 p.m. Oct. 28 in city council chambers. The debate -- sponsored by the Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce, the League of Women Voters of Broome and Tioga Counties, and the Broome Community College Center for Civic Engagement -- will last 60 minutes and will be broadcast live on Time Warner Cable Channel 12.

The general public can attend and submit questions for the candidates that evening. For more information, contact the chamber at (607) 772-8860 or e-mail ashaw@greaterbinghamtonchamber.com.

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**honeyjean** wrote:

If significant belt-tightening will be required, don't elect Rich David. He might turn blue.

10/24/2009 8:56:51 PM

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**classic69** wrote:

This is the most accurate representation on how last night's debate went, post #17

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**MrPozitive** wrote:

Replying to MarkUrtuzzi:

*"to suggest there is no substance is being dishonest."*

*Awwww, did I hurt your feelings? Look who's talking -- one of the biggest dumpers of BS who ever made a post.*

You didn't hurt my feelings...I simply acknowledged you for what you are....an intelletually dishonest turd.

10/22/2009 7:49:12 PM

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**MarkUrtuzzi** wrote:

"to suggest there is no substance is being dishonest."

Awwww, did I hurt your feelings? Look who's talking -- one of the biggest dumpers of BS who ever made a post.

10/22/2009 5:07:34 PM

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**MrPozitive** wrote:

Replying to MarkUrtuzzi:

*Well, that link shows Mr. Drazen's attempt at humor. That is not a plan for the future success of Binghamton.*

That's your opinion and you're entitled to it.

We get it. You're not a supporter, but to suggest there is no substance is being dishonest.

10/22/2009 4:53:37 PM

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