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Whelan and Balles square off in AC

By Matthew Arco | October 2nd, 2013 - 7:56pm

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ATLANTIC CITY – The Democratic incumbent and Republican challenger followed familiar scripts Wednesday evenir

New Jersey spends too much, residents are taxed too high and gay marriage should be decided by the voters, Repub about 100 people. His opponent is a career politician and the state would be better served by tightening its belt and o

Democratic Sen. Jim Whelan, on the other hand, supported gay marriage, in his words, "before it was cool," argues ir wants a millionaire's tax passed in the state to offset slashes to property tax rates.

Both agreed property taxes are too high and that the middle class needs someone fighting for them in Trenton.

But whether the Democratic incumbent will retain his seat in the competitive district that's home to two Republican inc GOP governor tops the ticket in November, remains to be seen.

The two squared off in Atlantic City in the first of three debates set for the District 2 race. Both men fought to distingui: represent voters in an area of the state both agreed is hurting from high taxes and the lack of economic growth.

"It's time for a change," declared Balles, adding, "A positive change for a positive future."

The sheriff argued Whelan is a "desperate career politician" and that under the Democrat's tenure, the state spent to

"The rich are getting richer, the middle class are losing ground and the poor are getting buried," Whelan said. "That's economy."

He argued in favor of funding women's health services in the state and said Atlantic City's casinos are losing ground

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