

# Opinion

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## Faxon merits another term

**M**ORE THAN anything else, Democratic incumbent Jack Faxon has two things going for him in the race for the 15th State Senate District seat. Those things are legislative experience and stature on the powerful Senate appropriations committee.

The Farmington Hills resident has run a low-key campaign in the 15th, which ranges from Wixom to Ferndale. His 16 years of service in the Senate, however, have given him ample opportunity to learn about the people in his district and about the problems and projects important to them.

Thus, Faxon has become well known as a patron of the arts, a subject especially dear to residents and businesses in Southfield, which supports a strong program of music and visual arts.

But it is his position on the Senate appropriations committee, the group responsible for funding those important projects, where Faxon becomes a real ally of suburban governments.

There can be no doubt that Faxon had a hand in past doles to education, in the recently announced road projects in his district and in the substantial \$350 million earmarked for building prisons in the state.

AMONG THE road projects Faxon claims to have helped forge are expansion and new interchanges for I-696 and making Haggerty a state road to take some financial pressure off the beleaguered Oakland County Road Commission.

Not content to rest there, Faxon said work needs to be done on the Telegraph Road turnarounds, where traffic backs up. And he pledges to continue to keep his district's road needs before the

Michigan Department of Transportation.

There are other areas where Faxon would like to see changes if re-elected to a fifth term in the Legislature's upper chamber. Instead of the current system of funding education, school districts should be reimbursed directly for their expenses, Faxon said.

The governor's guaranteed tuition plan receives conditional support from Faxon, who adds that he still has questions that require answers. That's important because his qualified support shows he doesn't just tout the party line.

Instead of giving tax breaks to businesses, tax relief should go to those on fixed incomes. "They're the ones who need the most help, not those who are making money from property and not paying taxes on property," he said.

Faxon thinks that tax relief should come in the form of circuit breaker doubled to \$2,400.

**FACED WITH ALL** Faxon has going for him, we urge him to be more rigorous in researching the needs of his entire district.

In a recent interview, he acknowledged problems with crime only after being prodded with information about the situation in Southfield.

When it came to roads, Faxon got only as far east as Telegraph. We wonder how the folks in Ferndale are faring.

Still, Faxon has made a valuable contribution to his district, a mix of old and new suburbs and economically diverse. He deserves voter support against Republican Frank Brock of Lathrup Village Tuesday, Nov. 4.

— Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

## Brotherton — the top choice

A SPOTLIGHT seeker he's not. Much of W.V. "Sandy" Brotherton's 12 years of service as a state representative has involved working behind the scenes — building contacts, doing his homework, shaping legislation.

Most importantly, the Farmington resident seems to reflect the political philosophy of the 69th State House District, as evidenced by his consistently strong showings at the polls.

A moderate Republican and no spendthrift, Sandy Brotherton has our endorsement for a seventh two-year term. The 69th district takes in Farmington, Farmington Hills and the Southfield Township villages of Franklin, Bingham Farms and Beverly Hills.

Possessor of one of the brighter minds in the state House, the former Farmington mayor could never be accused of being a high energy, outspoken lawmaker. Nonetheless, he has built a reputation for voting his conscience after carefully weighing the facts at hand.

Brotherton has demonstrated a solid grasp of business-related concerns confronting the state, particularly liability insurance, tax statements and the cost of doing business. He understands the urgency to reduce reliance on the property tax to pay for public education.

In the area of public health, Brotherton has displayed a real feel not only for health care cost containment but also

the quality of health care services.

AS A lawmaker, Brotherton has worn a variety of hats. He has served on the Public Health Committee, the Economic Development and Energy Committee, the Public Utilities Committee, the City Government Committee and a special organ transplant policy committee.

Throughout the years, Brotherton has often been seen at community gatherings, fielding queries as well as shaking hands. If he doesn't know the answer to a state-related question, he'll do his damndest to direct you to someone who does.

But the next time he puts out a guide to state government, Brotherton should make sure it's complete, not just a veiled publicity piece for the Republican Party that excludes Democratic names.

Brotherton is running against Farmington Democratic Club chairman Michael Bresnold. Enthusiastic and willing to give his all, Bresnold is taking his candidacy seriously.

The Key Pharmaceuticals hospital sales representative has a genuine interest in the way state government is run. But he's challenging a man whose legislative record has stood up to scrutiny for a dozen years.

On Tuesday, Nov. 4, re-elect Sandy Brotherton.

— Observer & Eccentric Newspapers



## State ballot issues

### Approve Proposal C, reject A, B

AN ELECTION-YEAR oddity is that issues that didn't make the ballot, such as the failed attempt to put capital punishment before voters, generated more publicity than those proposed constitutional amendments that will be decided Nov. 4.

Proposals A, B and C are dull. But voters should still feel obligated to make an informed choice. The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers recommend a no vote on proposals A and B and a yes vote on C. Here's why.

PROPOSAL A places the Michigan library system under the jurisdiction of the state Legislature. It's tempting to suggest that the state Legislature hasn't proved it can take care of anything, so why give it the opportunity to mess with the state library system? Fact is, responsibility for the library system was shifted from the executive to the legislative branch back in 1983.

Proposal A would etch today's practice into constitutional granite; that's why we oppose it. Control of the library is properly handled by the statutory process, not by fiddling with the constitution.

PROPOSAL B is an insult to voters and should be emphatically turned down. In a perfect world, voters would

also send a nasty note to any lawmaker who helped force this issue back before the public.

Proposal B would give constitutional protection to the Legislature's Joint Committee on Administrative Rules. This committee of 10 House and Senate members already exists and has the power of overriding agency rules that carry out laws passed by the full legislative body.

The joint committee is a lobbyist's dream. Why influence the majority of both houses when you can block legislation by winning and dining a few members of the joint committee? It was the joint committee, for instance, that earlier this year obstructed much-needed environmental legislation.

A proposal similar to Proposal B was shot down by voters two years ago. It can only be assumed that it is back on the ballot because some lawmakers assumed it could slide unnoticed past a voting public more interested in other races.

That shouldn't happen. This is a bad amendment and it should be defeated.

PROPOSAL C lacks the significance of most constitutional changes but it is being supported here because a constitutional amendment is the only way to

correct an unexplained flaw in the way top elected officials are paid.

The State Officers Compensation Commission meets every two years to set the wages for most elected officials. For some reason, the pay for the attorney general and the secretary of state is set by the Legislature. Proposal C puts all wage-setting in the hands of the compensation commission.

Taking the attorney general and secretary of state salary decisions away from the Legislature reduces the chance of political games, especially since two longtime officeholders, Frank Kelley and Dick Austin, will someday be stepping down.

The current system produces peculiar circumstances. In 1983, the Legislature set the salaries of the attorney general and the secretary of state at a level \$5,000 higher than that of the governor.

Such inconsistency is less likely if the salary compensation commission sets wages for all elected officials. Sometimes voters must protect lawmakers from themselves. This is one of those times.

We urge a yes vote on Proposal C, but a no vote on A and B.

— Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

## For Circuit Court

### Elect Lawrence Ternan to bench

IT'S DIFFICULT to choose judges. Only a tiny fraction of Oakland County voters are equipped with the legal knowledge to be counted as the candidates' peers. Even peers can disagree sharply.

So it is with this year's Circuit Court race in which voters pick a replacement for retiring Judge William Ziem. In the August primary, we saw Lawrence P. Ternan and Jessica Cooper as the standouts, and voters nominated those two. On Nov. 4 only one can win.

Larry Ternan, 46, is the Rochester Hills city attorney and a general practitioner of law. He has a statewide reputation in the area of zoning. He is scholarly on details though hesitant to make broad pronouncements on the stump.

His friends are unanimous in saying he has a "judicial temperament" — a cool head and a sense of fairness. If unexciting, Ternan at least has no open critics. He would be a fair, knowledgeable and even-handed judge.

Jessica Cooper, 40, is chief judge of the Southfield District Court and has been on the bench seven years. No one questions her familiarity with the work of judging.

She interviews extremely well, as evidenced from her Civic Searchlight rating (equal to Ternan's) and endorsements of some newspapers. She's quot-

able and interesting.

FOR THOSE who believe in attorney polls, the results of the Oakland Bar Association survey are disturbing.

Of those who responded, 18 percent "qualified" vs. only 2 percent who rated Ternan that low. Since Cooper's supporters challenge this year's poll, read on.

In 1984, when she was seeking reelection as district judge against a lower quality rival, 9 percent called her unqualified. That's a serious mark against a sitting judge.

A problem with this race is that it has taken a distinctly partisan flavor. Ter-

nan is strongly backed by Republicans. Cooper is a strong Democratic favorite. The partisanship has made it difficult to cut through the many endorsements claimed by each candidate. Cooper has gone so far as to call Ternan's supporters "good ol' boys," a clever but not necessarily helpful remark.

The race may well boil down to how well, in voters' minds, Cooper's eight years as a judge match up against Ternan's impressive legal career.

We see Ternan with the edge. Both candidates are experienced. The issue becomes judicial temperament.

For circuit judge, we endorse Lawrence P. Ternan.

— Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

## We recap endorsements

Summary of Observer & Eccentric endorsements follows:

- 15th State Senate District — U.A. William J. Brotherton, R-Farmington Hills
- 16th State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 17th State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 18th State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 19th State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 20th State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 21st State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 22nd State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 23rd State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 24th State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 25th State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 26th State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 27th State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 28th State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 29th State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 30th State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 31st State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 32nd State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 33rd State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 34th State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 35th State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 36th State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 37th State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 38th State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 39th State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 40th State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 41st State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 42nd State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 43rd State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 44th State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 45th State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 46th State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 47th State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 48th State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 49th State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills
- 50th State Senate District — U.A. John J. Schaefer, R-Farmington Hills

## keeping up with government

LOOKING FOR information about state government? The League of Women Voters has a toll-free telephone service (1-800-292-5820) that may be helpful.

The league's Citizen Information Center in Lansing offers to help people find out about such things as pending legislation, the state constitution, election laws, voting regulations or tax in-

formation. The telephone is answered from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays.

The telephone service is paid for by the league's education fund. The League of Women Voters is a non-profit organization that works to keep voters interested and informed about governmental issues.