

Abortion issue turned up another notch

With the August primaries around the corner, pro-choice candidates gathered before the National Organization for Women to plan strategy in their ongoing abortion rights battle.

By ALLEN WINGLAD Special Writer



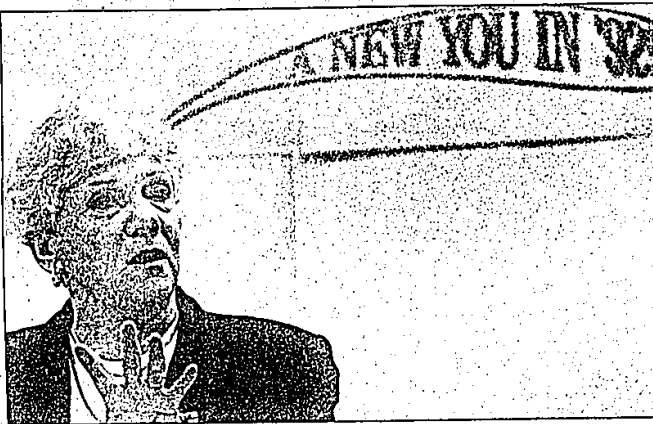
Illustration

The heat is on as abortion rights advocates looking toward the August primaries get together to garner support for pro-choice candidates.

"We're in for a long, hot summer... but it will be an interesting one," said State Rep. Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills. Dolan, along with three other pro-choice supporters...

The panel of representatives, dubbed the "fearless four" by NOW board member Marjorie McCracken of Farmington, is among those on an active campaign to see victories in the primary elections for abortion rights supporters.

And the representatives are urging people to cross party lines, if necessary, to elect pro-choicers. The issue concerns choice, not Republican versus Democratic, they insist.



Here and now: State Representative Jan Dolan, R-Farmington Hills, is one of four Oakland County pro-choice legislators who spoke at Tuesday's NOW meeting.

is known for her one-vote victory against a controversial Debbie Schluessel in the 1990 primary.

NOW is reporting that, in light of this year's redistricting, a large turnover of seats in the Michigan House of Representatives as well as in the state congressional delegation is expected.

To achieve NOW's No. 1 stated goal of a pro-choice majority in the Legislature, supporters are stressing communication, voter identification, volunteer

campaign help for endorsed candidates, and financial contributions to those candidates' election committees.

"We need to build bridges with pro-choice candidates... a few hours a week and a few dollars. We can do it... we really can," said Johnson, representative for Royal Oak.

Johnson praises her fellow pro-choice advocates for their efforts in the state House. "In spite of our losses we have wonderful, articulate spokespersons. We have strength in spite of our numbers. Our credibility mounts everyday," said

Johnson. Added Dolan: "I hope we can continue to count on organizations like NOW, knowing that definitely strong pro-choice people need help — not just money, but time. We need that involvement in the election. We can make a difference."

"And remember it's 'pro-choice,' not 'pro-abortion.' You can choose to have a dozen children — or none — if you want. "It's about who makes that choice. Should it really be 'Big Brother?'"

FARMINGTON NOTES

Volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to help in a community project that will build a new playground at Gill Elementary School in southern Farmington Hills.

People in the Gill School area will build the playground June 3-7, said Linda Winstin, one of about 500 who have volunteered so far, she added.

"We've got moms and dads who are taking vacations to help build this playground," she said. Anyone interested in volunteering should call 474-6085.

A good scout

Laura Myers, a Farmington resident and a longtime Cub Scout volunteer, was presented the District Award of Merit for her service to youth at the Ottawa District's annual dinner.

Myers was nominated by Pat Bradley, who cited her 10 years of service to Pack 45 at Longacre School, three years in Commissioner service and three years on the Board of Directors. He also noted her devotion to helping youth through PTA, high school and library volunteer work, Historical Society and the Farmington 125 Committee.

Last year she served on Ottawa District's Membership Committee, reorganizing inactive Cub Scout packs. Ottawa District contains 100 packs.

"I'm very proud of this award," she said, "and I value the respect of the many talented volunteers that bring the Scouting program to boys in my community. I'm proud to be a part of Scouting."

A laughing matter

Comedian Spike Matten will perform at a fund-raiser to benefit the Alumni Fund at Hill Day School in Farmington Hills on 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 17, at a private home.

Tickets are \$18 per person. Hill Day School alumni over 21 years of age should contact the Development Office at 851-6950 for more information.



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