

# New turf

## Honigman hits the campaign trail

BY GREG KOWALSKI  
STAFF WRITER

"I'm really thinking about voting for (H. Ross) Perot."  
"I don't vote."  
"We need a 10 percent tax cut."

The comments came from people in the Farmington Hills area, where state Sen. David Honigman, 36, was campaigning door-to-door recently to get to know an area he hasn't represented. "I love it," Honigman said.

The citizen comments represent the wide range of comments a candidate is likely to hear on the grueling door-to-door campaign trail. But it's worth it, Honigman said. "The majority of people like the door-to-door campaign," said Honigman as he briskly walked down the street.

"A lot of people feel powerless," he said, noting that meeting with them face-to-face gives them a chance to talk with their next congressman.

Honigman is running for the 11th U.S. Congressional House seat in an area represented by William Broomfield for nearly 37 years.

Honigman joined the race before Broomfield announced his retirement, followed after the retirement by fellow Republicans Alice Gilbert and Joseph Knollenberg and Democrats Walter O. Briggs IV and Michael Meyer.

"We go all over," said Honigman, who added he tries to go door-to-door as often as possible despite his busy schedule.

He's a firm believer in the practice, but it's a hit-and-miss kind of way of campaigning, he acknowledges.

A lot of people aren't in. A lot of people don't care who the candidate is. For the ones not home he leaves hand-written notes, a campaign brochure and a refrigerator magnet with his name on it.

"Call me if you have any questions at 932-8590," he writes.

**"I love it. The majority of people like the door-to-door campaign. A lot of people feel powerless."**

**David Honigman**  
state senator

"I think it (meeting candidates) makes an impression," said Kim Miller, who works with PIRGIM, a community action organization that focuses on environmental issues.

"It's important for officials to meet candidates," she said. When Honigman came by, she had a question ready for him. "How do you stand on the national bottle law?" she asked.

"I support it," Honigman replied, although he said he wasn't sure if it was an issue for the state or federal government to decide. He said he needs time to study it.

The law is a national version of the state bottle deposit law, which is also used by nine other states. Later, Miller said she was impressed with Honigman's responses.

"He said environmental issues were important to him," Miller said.

Miller supported the practice of going door-to-door because it allows citizens to exchange ideas and information with candidates.

Down the block, another woman who answered the door said she didn't vote and really wasn't interested in the election.

Ironically, lack of interest in issues is common among voters although there is a groundswell of voter criticism toward politicians. But that's part of the campaign game.

Vince Vanderlugt said he might support Perot for the presidential race because he said he felt frustration with Washington.



STEPHEN CANTRELL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Press the flesh: State Sen. Dave Honigman (left) has been hitting new territory on the campaign trail for the 11th U.S. District House. In Farmington Hills, he stopped in to meet Vince Vanderlugt.**

"There is no leadership in the area," he said. As for Honigman, he is still an unknown in this new district.

Richard Sprader was baby-sitting his 3-year-old granddaughter Danielle when Honigman came to call.

A retired senior citizen, his primary concern was taxes. "The income tax was never fair," Sprader said.

Meeting a candidate personally "was different," he said. But would it influence his vote? "Maybe," he replied.

Whatever, Honigman intends to keep on the campaign trail despite a painful foot and the uncertainty of winning votes.

Honigman was born in Detroit in 1955 and is married to Joann. He serves on the board of trustees of the Michigan Cancer Foundation and on the alumni board of Detroit Country Day School. He has been active in numerous community organizations including the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the Jewish Vocational Service.

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