

Another term Knollenberg has earned it

Joe Knollenberg is not campaigning especially hard against his opponent for re-election to the U.S. House 11th District — which includes Farmington and Farmington Hills — but he does deserve to be re-elected.

Knollenberg is facing Democrat Morris Frumin in the Nov. 5 general election. Being a political newcomer and a Democrat in a district with a large Republican voting population, Frumin is not likely to win. And Knollenberg has been directing his campaign to highlight the accomplishments of the last Congress and to attack President Bill Clinton.

Regardless, the district would best be served by returning Joe Knollenberg of Bloomfield Township to office for a third two-year term. He has demonstrated capability and acted accordingly, ably reflecting the wishes and political philosophy of the majority of the district. The job pays \$133,600 a year.

Knollenberg consistently has shown a clear grasp of the issues and voted responsibly. Further, he has become far more accessible to the people of the district than his predecessor, William Broomfield, who retired in 1992. Knollenberg has held community forums throughout the district and routinely attends social functions and addresses groups, such as senior citizens organizations. And with his previous experience in the Republican Party, he smoothly eased into the Washington scene.

Frumin, while well-intentioned, is a political newcomer who does not have the experience or background to be an effective U.S. representative. As a first-time candidate, he has set his sights too high.

Our endorsement of Knollenberg is not unqualified, however. Knollenberg has done much to establish his own reputation and has shaken off the image of being a clone of Broomfield. But he still has not shown a real degree of independence. Too often, he unquestioningly toes the Republican line.

Knollenberg must remember that he represents the entire district, not just the wealthier areas such as Bloomfield Hills and West Bloomfield townships. The 11th U.S. House district stretches from Highland and Lyon on the west to Redford and Birmingham on the east.

This is a diverse area ranging from middle-class families to some of the wealthiest households in the nation. And there is a sizable number of Democrats in the district who have a right to full representation as well as the Republicans.

In these last weeks before the election, Knollenberg has been promoting the accomplishments of the Republican-led Congress. He should look at his next term in the House as an opportunity to establish his own accomplishments, for the betterment of the entire 11th District.

Re-elect Sheriff John Nichols

John Nichols has been impressive amid claims by his critics that he's too old, too ill or too feeble to continue as Oakland County sheriff. We've seen the Novi resident up close, queried his deputies and looked at the job demands. And we're comfortable endorsing the Republican for one last term as sheriff.

Our endorsement comes despite the strong credentials and appeal of Democratic opponent Matt Hogan, 46, of White Lake. Hogan is a Michigan State Police lieutenant, commander of the Brighton Post and 24-year department veteran.

At 77, Nichols has lost several steps, but his mind is still sharp as a tack and he's as feisty as ever. As for the oxygen he takes for emphysema, the nine straight hours he logged on Woodward during this summer's Dream Cruise underscore his vigor and toughness.

Nichols' leadership record boasts a string of successes, the most widely acclaimed of which is a boot camp with a recidivism rate of just 16 percent. Others include privatizing the civil division, creating SCOPE (which takes alcohol enforcement education into the schools), expanding the auto theft unit, increasing road patrols, and installing video cameras and recorders in patrol cars to protect deputies and deter lawsuits. The sheriff's homicide, arson and marine investigators are among the most respected anywhere.

The military-style respectability he brought to the department in 1984 remains today. Much of what a sheriff does involves running a jail — and Nichols brings a staggering 54 years of experience as a lawman to the office.

Nichols' self-assuredness is a plus. He has never doubted his law enforcement skills nor the public's confidence in them. In turn, he's not afraid to face up when his department comes up short.

For example, Nichols initiated the 1993 probe of the Rochester Hills substation and the work-release program — a probe that raised

red flags about his own vigilance and the department's managerial checks and balances. Nichols ultimately ordered strong corrective initiatives, like regularly inspecting substations and tighter accountability of the work-release program.

We laud the sheriff's resolve to intensify high-risk prisoner transport training, and take disciplinary action if warranted, after a convicted murderer escaped custody of the Oakland County Fugitive Apprehension Team (FAT) in September at a Los Angeles airport. The felon was later captured by the U.S. Marshal's Service, considered the class of the land in prisoner handling. For the past three years, sheriff's detectives and prosecutor's investigators assigned to FAT have been enrolled, as slots open, in a two-week fugitive investigations course taught by the U.S. Marshal's Service. The September escape marked the first in 4,000 FAT transports over the past 10 years, but even one is too many, so the people of Oakland County can expect an appropriate, swift response once all the facts are known, the sheriff assures.

Nichols' pledge to help develop a countywide task force on youth gangs and a juvenile boot camp for nonviolent offenders underscores the depth of his thinking: to be pro-active in attacking gang violence and committed to salvaging wayward lives. He sees the sheriff as a conductor assisting local police agencies with a range of support services rather than as a master heading a countywide super police department.

Meanwhile, Oakland County's Deputy Sheriff's Association and Command Officers Association, as well as police chiefs from across the county, have endorsed his re-election bid for another four years as overseer of 832 employees and a \$64 million budget. The job pays \$90,645 a year.

In his most embattled run for election as Oakland County's top cop, John Nichols has shown remarkable drive and resiliency. Re-elect Sheriff John Nichols on Nov. 6th.

COMMUNITY VOICE

QUESTION:

What's the secret to a happy marriage?



Being friends before anything else.
Lynn Leiber
West Bloomfield



Understanding what the other person is feeling and being compassionate toward those feelings.
Eric Wetzel
Westland



The secret to a happy marriage is no secret. It's open communication. Growing as an individual and a couple.
Joan Storn
Farmington Hills



Taking the time to openly talk to each other. (We've) been married 38 years in December.
Dr. Ron Monfette
Farmington Hills

We asked this question at Photo Time in Farmington Hills.

LETTERS

Won't get fooled again

I totally agreed with Tim Richard's article "Voters should focus more on congressional elections."

After 18 years in the Senate, Carl Levin wants us to elect him again — living proof to support term limits. I voted for Mr. Levin in 1990 as I believed from his TV ads he would represent me and fellow citizens of Michigan.

Unlike the past I paid closer attention to his voting record and found he didn't represent my views or what I believe is a majority of Michigan residents. Look at part of the record and judge for yourself:

■ He voted for the largest tax increase in history in 1993. As a senior on Social Security his federal taxes were increased. Why any senior citizen would support him for re-election would be a mystery to me.

■ He voted against a constitutional amendment to balance the budget. It appears he wants a blank check to spend, spend, spend even though polls indicate 70 percent - 80 percent of Michigan residents want our representatives to balance the budget. It is no wonder after 18 years of spending our national debt is out of sight.

■ He voted against a constitutional amendment to protect the flag from desecration.

■ He voted in favor of partial birth abortions. Perhaps he should see the procedure performed and then maybe he would change his mind.

These are but a few examples of how he voted. I'm sure he has done some good the last six years — at least he voted to raise the minimum wage.

I recall in his victory speech in 1990 he eloquently voiced the need for election reform. After another six years it's business as usual.

Now to the '96 elections. Carl has these folksy TV ads that depicts him as regular guy cutting waste and playing the centrist song — which I fell for in 1990. He talks like a centrist but votes like a liberal. Big government is the game and spending is his name.

As someone once said, "fool me once shame on you — fool me twice shame on me." I'm not going to be fooled again this time around Mr. Levin.

Blair Algie,
Farmington Hills

'In left field'

I am writing in response to your front page news story about Andrew Raczkowski in which you say that "truth is at issue in the state House race."

You have once again made a conscientious decision to assassinate the character of Andrew Raczkowski. During the primary your paper called Andrew to task on his education,

military service and his personal business. None of the other candidates had to answer question one on any of these personal issues. Not only were Andrew's opponents wrong about Andrew in all of these areas, but Andrew took time from a very busy schedule to meet and share with you any and all documentation you asked to see.

This meeting should have ended all discussion in these areas of Andrew's life since documentation was provided to you to your full satisfaction.

Now you are muddying the waters surrounding the race for the state House. With your reports you are keeping the public from focusing in on the real issues.

I know Andrew Raczkowski. His integrity is impeccable. What you have done in this issue is at best a disservice to the communities of Farmington and Farmington Hills. You, sir, are out in left field.

In closing, I would ask that you stay on the issues in your news stories which are crime, education, roads and taxes. This is what people want to read about.

K. David Jaske,
Farmington

A 'cryin' shame'

It's a "cryin' shame" how political campaigns are run these days. It seems local, state and national campaigns are bent on attacking one another personally.

Your recent front page article of Steve Dilbert's attack on Andrew Raczkowski is the perfect example. It seems to me as much the media's fault as the candidate's. Does the media need to print every little nit-picking insane accusation?

I have been to debates and have seen Andrew Raczkowski respond to questions in great detail and with great conviction. He always has facts and figures backing his stand on an issue.

How can Andrew's opposition counter-attack the truth? They can't, it's that simple. Let's be an informed citizenry in November by attending debates or by calling a candidate personally. Unfortunately, we cannot rely on the media to inform us.

Melody Jaske,
Farmington

Opinions are to be shared: We welcome your ideas, as do your neighbors. That's why we offer this space on a weekly basis for opinions in your own words. We will help by editing for clarity. To assure authenticity, we ask that you sign your letter and provide a contact telephone number.

Letters should be mailed to: Editor, The Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington Michigan 48335. Or they can be faxed to 810-477-9722.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

This week in history as reported in past editions of the Farmington Observer and the Farmington Enterprise.

■ 40 YEARS AGO — OCT. 18, 1956
(ENTERPRISE)

The Farmington High School Marching Band was one of 171 bands to perform with the University of Michigan Marching Band during halftime at the U-M-Northwestern University football game.

Organizers of the annual Farmington Area United Fund and Community Treasure Chest set a goal to raise \$28,000.

■ 25 YEARS AGO — OCT. 18-17, 1971
(ENTERPRISE & OBSERVER)

A widely-used sentencing method which allows a first-time offender to earn dismissal of a charge against him was adopted by Farmington District Judge Michael Hand to replace the controversial prisoner work program.

A special meeting has been called for by the Farmington Township Zoning Board to act on the site plans for a proposed small church college at Nine Mile and Halsted. Farmington resident and John Wesley College President Dr. Kenneth Armstrong sought approval to build a campus on the 70-acre site.

■ TWO YEARS AGO — OCT. 20, 1994
Farmington School Board members approved a 3-percent pay increase for a majority of Farmington Public Schools executive administrators.

Farmington Observer

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— Philip Power