

## 18th District Send Jolicoeur to the county

Voters in the 18th District of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners face a choice between two strong, well-established candidates for the seat. We recommend Linda Jolicoeur.



Linda Jolicoeur

While she has never been elected to office, Jolicoeur carries a remarkable background of service to the community. Most of those involvements have been in the areas of business/economic development and mental health care — two of the key issues facing Oakland County.

She plans to use her involvement and interest to the advantage of the community at the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. And we believe she will.

This woman has been honored with awards from her peers (Oakland County "Wonder Woman" and two Athena Awards for women in business) and she's been recognized with positions of power in groups from the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Women Business

It's tough to prove the quality of your work on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. Yet, we believe Linda Jolicoeur's common sense approach to issues would serve the community well.

Owners to the Michigan Metro Girl Scouts. She was appointed to several boards and councils by Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson and Gov. John Engler and served on the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago's Small Business Advisory Council.

Her opponent, David Moffitt, is the second longest serving commissioner, with 14 years of background. He currently chairs the Public Services Committee and sits on the Planning and Building Committee. His knowledge of issues facing the county seems deep and vast, and he has most recently come up with the innovative idea of moving committee meetings from the county board office to individual communities, like Farmington Hills.

However, we're not impressed with his leadership on issues, his voting along with the county executive too regularly and his sporadic communication with his community.

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## Exercise your rights Aug. 4

A hundred years ago, progressive governors like Hazen Pingree of Detroit and later Fred Warner of Farmington fought for direct election of U.S. senators and for primary elections. Their purpose was to give voters more direct power over people who made laws and cut the tentacles of party bosses.

Today we have primary elections. In fact, one is coming up Aug. 4. And what will be the response of Michigan voters? Probably, we fear, a profound indifference to the primary. It's easier to tell jokes about White House interns, cheer a hockey team and discuss which movies should make the top 100 list than to think about partisan nominations.

Who wants to think about college aid, assisted suicide, pathetic charter schools, organ donations, drunken banters, drunken drivers, and all those (yeehee!) issues? Give us talk shows, eh?

Well, the 1998 primary will be one of the most important since primaries were invented. The reason is term limits. Some lawmakers are ineligible to run again and must be replaced. Some of those are seeking higher office. Meanwhile, this will be the last term for the incumbent governor, lieutenant governor and secretary of state, if they're re-elected. We should be looking at those below them for successors in 2002.

Consider the situation facing Farmington area voters:

■ Barbara Dobb is again challenging incumbent State Sen. Willis Bullard in the 15th District.

■ State Rep. Andrew Raczkowski is seeking re-election to the 37th District and is unopposed in the primary election. But Democrat Stephen Dibert, who has done battle with the incumbent before, will be waiting for him November.

■ Longtime Oakland County Commissioner David Moffitt, who represents the 18th District, will be met in August by two incumbents, Linda Jolicoeur and Laine Wine.

■ Scrambling for the seat in the 19th District, a seat long held by Donna Wolf, formerly of Farmington Hills City Council fame, are former Hills council member Ben Marks and current council member Terry Sever, as well as Jo Anne F. Molin.

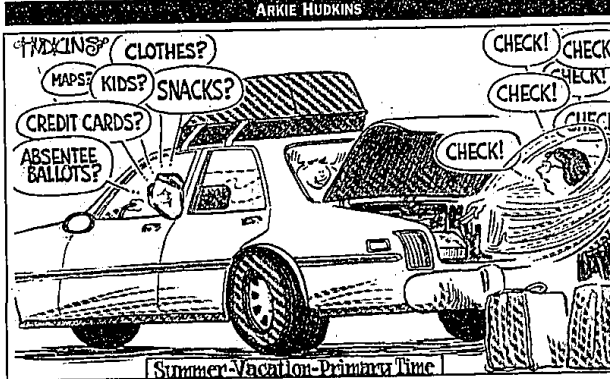
■ Gov. John Engler should have no trouble winning his primary, but the Democratic battle for a chance to oppose him is up in the air. Labor-backed Larry Owens, political pro Doug Ross, the flamboyant Geoffrey Fieger — who should Democrats pick to put their best foot forward?

County government is no longer a stuffy courthouse downtown but a vibrant player in the economy (Metro Airport) and the environment (Hines Park/Rouge River/Newburgh Lake). CEO Ed McNamara is ahead, but challenger Sharon McPhail won't let him off the hook easily. The county hasn't gone Republican since 1946, when even McNamara was a student, so the winner of this primary is CEO for four years.

Some may be suspicious of this newspaper when we say, "Don't trust TV ads," but it's proper advice. TV commercials tell you virtually nothing about the issues that affect your work and your kids' schools. They are written in "buzz" words designed to make you react emotionally, not rationally.

Read. Read this newspaper. Read campaign literature. Go to candidates' forums and ask questions. Meet the candidates when you can and ask more questions. Michiganans have a right that is rare in the world — not only to elect their officials but to nominate them in the primaries by secret ballot.

Use that right to vote Aug. 4.



## LETTERS

### Vote yes

Do you remember asking these questions of yourself or to your children?

What are you going to be when you grow up? What courses are you going to take in high school? What college are you going to attend after graduation? What degree will you earn in college? What job are you qualified to do? What plans will you make for saving and investing?

We are always planning for our future. Now, we need to plan for the future of our libraries. The Farmington branch, built in 1975, is used by 500 residents a day. The Farmington Hills branch, built in 1972, is used by 1,000 residents a day. Both libraries surpassed their maximum utilization in the 1980s and are in desperate circumstances.

We expect our exemplary school system for our children. We should also expect excellent library facilities to complement their education. Please vote YES on Aug. 4 and show your support for the future of our children.

Judy Antishin  
Northville

### Inequity noted

There have been recent changes announced in the way the IRS conducts business. However, as you are well aware, the IRS only enforces the tax code, Congress writes the bills, and they are signed into law by the president. As you might expect, this by its very nature can result in some inequities.

As an example, take the deductibility of health care and other employee benefits. If you are fortunate enough to work for a company that offers a wide range of employee benefits you are the beneficiary of certain tax advantages. The benefits might include full health care coverage, prescription coverage, dental coverage, eye care, life insurance, short and long-term disability insurance, a pension plan, a 401k plan or even a cafeteria plan that allows you to deduct medical costs as a pre-tax benefit.

Generally, the company for whom you work deducts for tax purposes the cost of these plans. You receive these benefits tax free although there is a cost for life insurance coverage that exceeds \$50,000. Of course, with the 401k plan and the cafeteria plan, these are your dollars but they reduce taxable income.

If you're not as fortunate to have company-provided plans you either do without or pay the cost of obtaining desired coverage. Here's where the inequity in the tax law comes into play. If you don't itemize when you prepare your tax return, you bear the full cost. In other words, you pay income tax on all of your income and then pay the full cost of the coverage. If you itemize, only costs that exceed 7.5

percent of your adjusted gross income is deductible.

Does this seem fair? Of course not. I would venture a guess that this inequity falls heavily on the lower wage earners. But who lobbies for the less fortunate? Do the less fortunate have PACs like Ameritech that buy the passage of legislation? And why was the capital gains rate reduced to 20 percent? Was this aimed at the less fortunate? Will the Chrysler executives who stand to gain millions from the lowering of the capital gains rates now speak out on behalf of the less fortunate?

I tried to get the two senators from Michigan interested in this inequity. I didn't even get a reply from Sen. Carl Levin and Sen. Spencer Abraham seemed to recognize the problem but I guess this is not the type of issue that will bring out the vote. I surmise that if someone recommended that employee benefits be taxed, the issue would engender considerable interest. Perhaps then people would realize the current inequity.

Tom DeWard  
Farmington Hills

### Refine hub system

I enjoyed Phil Power's June 18 column about Northwest (or is it Northworst) Airlines. I was the victim of cancelled flights in May on a trip from Detroit to Seattle. My May 8 flight was cancelled one week in advance and I was notified and changed to an earlier flight (two hours earlier). My return flight was cancelled... I learned when I reached the airport out west... and I was changed to a flight two hours earlier. They said they cancelled the flight several days earlier but weren't able to reach me. Since both of these flights were cancelled several days prior to departure... I doubt they were cancelled because of lot bookings... and NWA was combining two flights to save a flight. They seem to have no concern for the schedule of the paying passengers. I also feel that hubs are OK, and efficient, but I feel they allow one airline to dominate any particular airport. I would like to see regulation to the extent that no one particular airline could handle more than 50 percent of the traffic in any airport. That would allow more alternatives when a situation arises like we have at Detroit. I don't know if it would be best to determine the 50 percent base on number of passengers... or on number of flights. Either would be better.

Barry DeChant,  
Livonia

## COMMUNITY VOICE

### QUESTION:

Does Geoff Fieger have a chance at winning the Democratic nod?



"No, I just don't like him. He's very arrogant."

Carl Pocheo  
Farmington



"I think he's a little bit... I don't know if the cartoon is the word, I don't see people taking seriously."

Nancy Tashman  
Farmington



"I suppose. When you run you have a chance. Do I think he will? No."

Ron Kalczynski  
Farmington



"I wouldn't like to see him win. We need someone with an Archer personality."

Susan McAdams  
Farmington

We asked this question on the streets of downtown Farmington.

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— Philip Power