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polite chat on issues during a Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission forum Sept. 30. Democratic Club debates are more free-form.

"I think it will be a very lively and colorful forum," said Dibert. "The Democratic Club's is a little more liberal as to what you can and cannot say compared to SWOCC's forum."

Candidates will be given two minutes to answer questions and to respond to other hopefuls' remarks. They'll have five minutes for an opening statement and three minutes to close.

"I expect more discussion on the ballot questions," McShane said. "They said in their letter to be prepared to answer questions on the ballot questions."

"Whatever else is going to be discussed, I'm not sure." Due to only one hour being available, Mitchell estimated only six or so questions will likely be asked. As to the tenor of those queries, Mitchell said, "It's

hard to say."

The discussion on the Farmington Hills charter amendments that follows is going to be a bit tricky, Goldberg said.

Hills city officials have to be careful because legally they cannot put their spin on the seven proposals. They can only provide information.

Goldberg admitted ballot language may be "long and dry" as a discussion topic. "More information is certainly better than less."

Farmington Hills' five council candidates and two mayoral hopefuls debated during Democratic Club sponsored forum Oct. 4. That included mayoral challenger George Sarkisian attacking his opponent Nancy Bates on a number of issues.

On Oct. 27, they'll square off again in a forum presented by Farmington Hills Council of Homeowners Association.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Farmington City Council incumbents are turning their noses up at an unexpected campaign contribution from Lansing.

Li. Gov. Dick Posthumus sent \$100 checks through a political action committee to incumbents JoAnne McShane, Bill Hartsock and Jim Mitchell. Challenger Steve Dibert didn't receive one.

All three candidates said they plan to return the donations. "I wasn't doing any fund-raising," Mitchell said. "I just feel that because I'm not doing any fund-raising, I didn't feel comfortable accepting any checks."

McShane said she plans to spend around \$400, which means she isn't required to file a campaign finance statement. "I don't need to accept money from him," McShane said.

All three candidates are puz-

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zled as to why Gov. John Engler's lieutenant would single them out.

"I'd have to think he's posturing himself," McShane said. "I don't personally know him. So, I really don't know why he sent it." Hartsock said he typically doesn't accept campaign contributions.

"With - city of our size, I work by going door-to-door and meeting people face-to-face," he said. "I find that it's more effective."

In an Oct. 9 letter accompanying the check, Posthumus opens by saying he agrees with the statement that all politics is local.

He also noted that as power moves from Washington, D.C., to Michigan and from the state

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Jim Mitchell
—Farmington City Council incumbent

level to local governments, "it is vastly important to elect good people to all offices at the local, state and federal level."

Though the money is from a PAC, Hartsock noted the stationery and envelope came from the lieutenant governor's office. "Which, as a taxpayer, I find offensive," Hartsock said.

The Posthumus Leadership Fund Political Action Committee has donated \$10,000 to candidates in this election, a spokesman said. The PAC is

designed to foster party building and grassroots support.

In the past, Posthumus' PAC contributed to congressional House and Senate hopefuls as well as presidential campaigns.

The lieutenant governor gives money to Republicans or those "who share the same type of conservative philosophy," said Jason McBride, Posthumus' political director.

"I don't know enough about the gentleman to say I share anything with him," Hartsock said.

The Farmington City Council race is nonpartisan. "We usually know what side they fall on," McBride said.

In this case, McBride said state Rep. Andrew Raczowski (R-Farmington Hills) recommended the three city council incumbents to Posthumus' office.

"Andrew Raczowski said these candidates are promising ones," McBride said.

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is asking that he attend.

"Saying hello or simply telling someone they're important goes a long way," Harris said. "That (letter) is what brought me to the table."

Holm said more needs to be done.

"Blanket invitations just don't work," she said. "We need to have a one-on-one approach."

Kornicky, a Scottish immigrant, said homeowners associations do a good job of welcoming new neighbors. She has lived in Farmington Hills 30 years.

"Homeowners associations do a lot to bring people together," Kornicky said, referring to potlucks, block parties and more. "Truthfully, America is a diverse society."

"In Great Britain, people are aghast if people marry out of their (cultural or class) group," Kornicky said.

Panelists agreed that communication was the key to keeping new people from getting discouraged from attending meetings.

"You need to greet those people and make sure new members

are introduced and know who old members are. We have to make sure not to overwhelm them," Holm said.

Finding out why people are at a particular meeting is also important.


"We need to stop assuming that we're all there for the same reason," Holm said.

Panelists and audience members agreed that observing children was a good step in learning about tolerance.

Bachrouche said a new Albanian student who didn't speak any

English was aided by a small group of students, who made sure the student knew what was going on. "I was just so, so touched."

The council consists of school officials from the Farmington Public Schools and Mercy High School, city and police officials from both Farmington and Farmington Hills as well as other members of the community.



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