

County commission Elect Sever to Oakland board

Election '98

Terry Sever, a veteran Farmington Hills City Council member, deserves support of his candidacy for the Oakland County Commission, representing Farmington and a portion of Farmington Hills in the 19th District.

He is running against Democrat challenger Deborah Goldberg of Farmington, who has proven herself an able and interesting candidate.

But we urge voters to throw their support behind Sever in his quest for the county commission. He has served on the city council since 1985. He began his public service as a true neophyte and over the years has personally and professionally grown up.

Sever is also not one to give up. When he has believed in something, he sticks to his guns. He is to be admired for voting for what he believes is right, and not necessarily because his political party tells him it's right. That is rare in these days of rancorous partisan politics.

During these latter days of Sever's candidacy for the county commission, he has been beset with news stories, rumors and gossip of his personal financial troubles.

While it is easy for his detractors to say he shouldn't be elected to the county commission because of his troubles, we ask that voters take a moment and think again.

His financial troubles do not show a lack of character. In fact, he has taken the bull by the horns and is working to resolve his problems, brought on by a poor investment. It can happen to anyone.

Of course, we continue to urge Sever to pay his overdue residential and personal property

taxes as soon as possible.

We do not believe his personal financial troubles are indicative of a lack of ability to go to the county and work with money matters affecting the Farmington area or the county.

On the contrary, it has been Sever who has throughout the years suggested alternative financing techniques, such as with the Farmington Hills ice arena, that have proven successful.

Sever is committed to the task in front of him and he is a well-known hard worker who has always had the city and his work on the council foremost in mind. And we believe he will conduct himself in the same manner on the county commission.

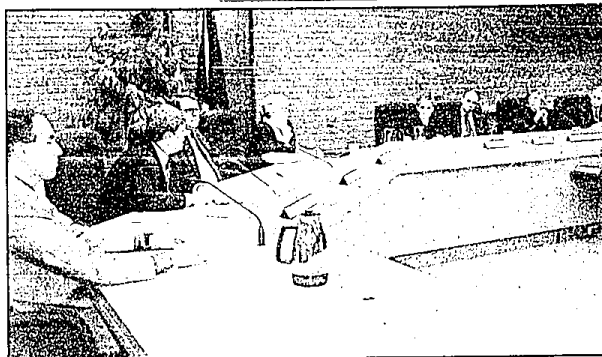
Putting a man who is so well versed and on the inside track of public service in the Farmington area will be a boon to his district and a certainty he will keenly represent constituents' interests.

His formidable challenger, Deborah Goldberg, should not be dissuaded in her efforts to get involved in the community or in public service. She is a fine thinker and has her heart in the right place. We urge her to step into the local level of politics and public service.

We urge voters to send Terry Sever to the Oakland County Commission to represent the 19th District.



Terry Sever



STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CARLISLE

Scheduling: A big thank you goes to the Council of Homeowners Association of Farmington Hills, which coordinated and hosted a candidate night in early October. No easy task, the forum allowed voters to see and hear candidates in person or on cable television.

LETTERS

Perplexed

In my efforts to bring government closer to the people, I have been as open as I can with the people I wish to represent. I have filed my campaign finance statements on time and have made copies available to this paper and the Northwest Gazette. I have also left copies at the Farmington Hills City Hall for any of my constituents to peruse at their leisure.

I am a little perplexed that David Moffitt finds the campaign finance report so tough, but he probably raised and spent a lot more money than I have so if that's what he says, I have to believe him. I doubt that he is hiding anything; he just has too much work to do, and not enough time to do it.

I am doing everything I can to bring government closer to the people. I would like to urge everyone to vote. Every vote counts, and yours can make a difference. If anyone has any question about my candidacy or just wants to talk about politics, feel free to call me anytime at 474-0873.

Ryan J. Gesund
candidate for county commissioner
18th District, Farmington Hills

Fix the roads

During the last thirty years, there has been construction on M-59. On Oct. 6, the road was finally completed. There were 11 miles of new road created. I have noticed that the construction of roads in Michigan is either very slow or extremely fast. I have also noticed that the faster built roads have been destroyed a lot faster. I am not driving yet, but as a passenger, I feel that having to constantly go over potholes and causing car damage is unnecessary. The state should really consider finding the time and effort to make sturdy, stable, and dependable new roads.

Cathryn Daisy
Farmington

A steady voice

Eric Borregard, who is running for State School Board, has been a steady voice and active member in our community by serving on the Farmington Schools Mission 2007 planning committee, as an Odyssey of the Mind coach and is a member of the Michigan Alliance for Gifted Education. His persistence and drive for excellence in education would benefit all children in the state of Michigan. He is an avid proponent of limiting class size to 22 for grades K-5 and to 28 for grades 6-12.

Farmington Observer

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— Philip Power

Cast a 'yes' for Proposal B

Few ballot proposals strike to the heart of deeply held emotional and religious feelings as Proposal B on the Nov. 3 ballot.

Passage would legalize a physician's prescribing a lethal dose of medication for a terminally ill patient who wanted to commit suicide.

While complex and imperfect, Proposal B is better than either of the two alternatives: Dr. Jack Kevorkian's unregulated, flamboyant, one-man ministrations and the new law that took effect Sept. 1 making physician-assisted suicide a five-year felony. We suggest a yes vote on Proposal B.

Kevorkian, a retired West Bloomfield pathologist, has been at the scene of more than 100 assisted suicides. There are serious questions about whether some were terminally ill, whether they couldn't have been further treated and whether Kevorkian followed his own procedures to avoid abuse. But despite an earlier state law that expired and various common law prosecutions, prosecutors in three counties have been unable to persuade any jury to convict Kevorkian, who has publicly scoffed at the law and the authorities.

Proposal B offers a long list of safeguards—some might say too long and complex.

It offers a number of safeguards to protect patients. Two physicians would have to certify the patient is within six months of death, and a psychiatrist would have to certify the patient isn't mentally ill. Waiting periods are required, and patients would have to be given a list of alternatives to suicide, such as hospice. Proposal B would prohibit someone from

Defeating Proposal B won't make the problem go away.

setting up a clinic for the sole purpose of administering assisted suicides, in effect putting Kevorkian himself out of business.

A number of physicians object to a provision in Proposal B that would require doctors who conscientiously object to assisted suicide to refer a patient to a willing physician. Such a conscience objector MD could face a \$10,000 fine and 90 days in jail. It's probably unconstitutional, but who knows what the judges would do with sincere religious beliefs?

Outlawing physician-assisted suicide—the route preferred by politicians who chant "stiff new penalties, tough new laws"—is unlikely to work. Juries have been unwilling to convict somebody like Kevorkian. Moreover, our demographics are changing. The fastest-growing segment in the population is over 85, just the kinds of people most likely to be facing the severe prospect of terminal illness with no prospect of release. Defeating Proposal B won't make the problem go away.

If you disapprove of physician-assisted suicide for yourself or your family, don't do it. Discourage others; support hospice. If you're a physician, refer your patient to another doctor.

But if you vote "no," don't expect the problem to disappear with the last trace of summer.

We urge a 'yes' on Proposal A

Proposal A is a routine wording change to the Michigan Constitution that voters should approve with no qualms.

It would amend a section of Art. VIII (education) sec. 8 (guaranteeing education and services for the physically and mentally handicapped). It would change the word "handicapped" to "disabled."

That would bring the state constitution into line with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992. The Legislature already has passed two dozen laws changing "handi-

capped" to "disabled."

Proposal A needed a two-thirds vote in each chamber of the Legislature to go on the ballot. It got 97-0 support in the Senate and 99-0 support in the House. As a constitutional amendment, Proposal A must be approved by voters.

It is common sense and good legal practice to phrase state and federal laws in the same words, when possible. We urge a "yes" vote on Proposal A.