

Campaign finances split candidates

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Democrats and Republicans rarely see eye to eye on anything, including accepting campaign contributions from Political Action Committees, or PACs.

Not surprisingly then, Republican Andrew Raczowski, the incumbent 37th District House representative, sees little problem taking money from various special interest groups. But his challenger, Democrat Steve Dibert, thinks politicians should tread more lightly when it comes to such financial help.

Raczowski estimated that there is about \$20,000 currently in his campaign coffers, with slightly more than half of that attributable to PACs, such as Michigan Society of Anesthesiologists, which chipped in \$1,000.

"We had a campaign promise to do a 50-50 split," Raczowski said. "And we're a little bit above that."

Some of the campaign contributors include \$100 from Renters PAC of Michigan; \$100 from Automobile Club of Michigan; \$100 from Michigan Township



Association PAC; \$200 from Consumers Power Emp. Govt. PAC; \$500 from a Lansing-based attorneys' PAC; \$500 from Detroit Auto Dealers PAC.

SENATE RACE

Raczowski noted that several groups, such as Chrysler Mortgage Corp. and the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants recently contributed at a fund-raiser, but primarily because they "appreciate or support positions I've taken."

Dibert, on the other hand, said only about 20 percent of the \$10,000 raised for his campaign came from various groups, including labor unions, pro-

choice groups and "typical Democratic Party-friendly PACs." The rest was sent his way by friends, family members and other individuals.

But if he had his way, special interest groups would only be allowed to contribute up to 15 percent of a candidate's campaign bankroll.

The Democrat actually claims that the amount of special interest money being funneled to Raczowski is more in the neighborhood of 85 percent, and not 50 or 60 percent.

"That says a lot about a campaign," Dibert said.

According to Raczowski, too much is made about whether a candidate receives a lot of special interest money or not.

Whatever funds come in can

be used to benefit the district he serves, and he insists he doesn't let a stipend impact his judgment on legislative issues.

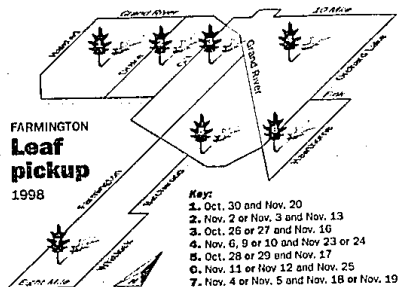
"I'll take a contribution because I'll use that money for the district," such as obtaining miniature American flags to give to students during his many school visits. "... And I've got a proven track record of sometimes voting against contributors."

Raczowski cited the time he took money from RJR Tobacco and then "voted against the tobacco interest." Another time he rejected money from Ladbroke DRC, because Ladbroke had applied for a gambling permit.

Both candidates do concur that contributions must not get in the way of decisions they make in Lansing.

"One of the policies that I've stood by," Dibert said, "if I go up there, I won't take money from groups that have business in front of any committees that I sit on."

Raczowski said he doesn't accept contributions if they are connected to a current issue.



Leaf pickup begins: Oct. 26, 1998

Instructions: Place leaves at the curb no earlier than 48 hours before scheduled pickup, as putting them out sooner can cause drainage and traffic hazards. Leaves are not to be raked into the street. All vehicles must be parked on private property during leaf pickup hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Leaves must be placed in paper bags or labeled yard waste containers for pickup by the rubbish contractor during weeks not scheduled. Areas with multiple consecutive pickup days during the week must place their leaves out by the first day as leaf crews may not be returning each day.

Reminder: The leaf program is not designed to pick up all leaves. It is a supplemental program. This schedule is subject to change due to weather or other factors.

Farmington starts its leaf pickup effort

Farmington's annual leaf pickup program is slated to begin Monday, Oct. 26, and Tuesday, Oct. 27, in the portion of the city south of Grand River between Gill-Farmington roads.

The program continues through Wednesday, Nov. 25, with two pickups guaranteed for each of the city's seven sections.

Kevin Gushman, director of Farmington Department of Public Services, emphasized, however, that each section will receive the leaf pickups one day during each of two different occasions (see below).

Residents are asked to place leaves at the curb, no earlier than 48 hours before scheduled pickups, because putting them out sooner might cause drainage and traffic hazards.

Leaves are not to be raked into streets, Gushman stressed. All vehicles must be parked on private property during leaf pickup hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Gushman noted that all leaves will not necessarily be collected through the program, which is meant to be supplemental.

During weeks when pickups are not scheduled, residents are asked to put their leaves in

paper bags or labeled yard waste containers for collection by the rubbish contractor. Areas with multiple consecutive pickup days during the work week must place their leaves out by the first day, as crews may not return daily.

Following is the pickup schedule, which is subject to change due to weather or other factors. Also refer to the map:

■ South of Grand River, between Hilsted and Drake; Oct. 30 and Nov. 20.

■ South of Grand River, between Drake and Gill; Nov. 2-3 and Nov. 13.

■ South of Grand River, between Gill and Farmington; Oct. 26-27 and Nov. 16.

■ South of Grand River, between Farmington and Orchard Lake; Oct. 28-29 and Nov. 17.

■ North of Grand River, between Gill and Orchard Lake and south of 10 Mile Road; Nov. 6, 9-10 and Nov. 23-24.

■ North of Grand River, east of Orchard Lake Road, south of Fink Road; Nov. 11-12 and Nov. 25.

■ East of Farmington Road, south of Nine Mile; Nov. 4-5 and Nov. 18-19.

Pact from page A1

est-based negotiations, a collaborative style that worked very well" particularly in achieving consensus on various non-economic issues.

Thomas Chrzanoski, FEA president, could not be reached for comment about the tentative deal.

If the pact is ratified, FEA members, including general education and special education teachers, as well as coordinators, psychologists and social workers, would receive a 2 percent salary raise for each of the 1998-99 and 1999-2000 school years and a 2.5 percent raise for the final two years of the deal, 2000-01 and 2001-02.

Zurvallec said teachers received annual raises of 2 percent for each year of its last contract, which was a three-year agreement.

The deal also would add two additional instructional days, from 180 to 182, for the first two years; a third additional day in

2000-01 and a fourth additional day, bringing the school calendar to 184 days, in the final year. Those extra days are mandated by state law.

"That didn't come as a surprise," said Lossin-Acho, about the additional days.

Zurvallec did not want to divulge further details of the contract until it is ratified by teachers. One element she would discuss was its length. "The parties were looking to really commit to a long-term relationship."

Meanwhile, Zurvallec said the district and union plan to continue the "consensus-building" style of communication, and problem solving, throughout the contract. She said that is another groundbreaking aspect of the negotiations.

"This (approach) was not something that was done to get a contract and then put it aside," Zurvallec said. "We pledge to do that" on an ongoing basis.

Tuxedos discounted for Cornucopia Ball

The Farmington Community Foundation for Children, Youth and Families has announced that Fox Formal Wear in Bloomfield Hills is discounting tuxedo rentals for Cornucopia Ball attendees.

The Fourth Annual Cornucopia Ball will begin at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, at the Caskie Center in Farmington Hills. This black tie event is sponsored by the foundation as an annual fund raiser to support programs within the community.

BENEFIT

Individual contributions to attend the ball are \$150 per person. The evening will begin with a cocktail reception and auction. Dinner with open bar and dancing will top off the evening.

Fox Formal Wear is on the southwest corner of Maple and Telegraph roads in the Bloomfield Plaza Shopping Center. Call 932-5960.

A sure sign of autumn.



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