

# State senate candidates offer their viewpoints:

## Fuller says she can do better for district

BY JENNIFER PLACINTO  
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S. Ruth Fuller believes she doesn't need a lot of money to beat her incumbent opponent for a seat on the state Senate.

The 54-year-old West Bloomfield Democrat is facing off with Republican Willis Bullard Jr., Nov. 3 for a six-year 15th District State Senate term.

The political newcomer has been working hard to get the word out about her candidacy through door-to-door campaigning, mailings, telephone calls, campaign signs and a recent debate with Bullard.

"I'm just talking to everyone I can," Fuller said. "I think I've accomplished quite a lot with less funds and I think I'm making just as large an impact."

Fuller said she plans to spend less than \$10,000 on her campaign and she's trying to win voter approval by telling people how she feels.

"I'm telling them I'm a person for all the people and how strongly I feel about our public education," Fuller said. "I really feel I can do a better job. I'm in

touch with the people, working and volunteering in the community."

Fuller said the primary issues she's hearing about include the need for road improvements and stability of public education funding. She said charter school education is depleting that funding and hasn't proven any better than public schools.

"And this is what we're throwing our money away on," she said.

Fuller is dissatisfied with the current method of funding through Proposal A, which she said brings down educational standards.

A strong advocate for improving mental health care, Fuller said, she's surprised at the support she's receiving from the public. She said people are concerned about costs and whether the services rendered are helpful. She said private agencies are turning individuals away for substance abuse and behavioral problems.

"We need to do more with the mentally ill," Fuller said. "We're reverting back to discrimination."



S. Ruth Fuller.

While Fuller believes there is enough funding for roads, she disagrees with the way it's being spent.

"I think it's wonderful how the governor in office has been able to provide black paint to paint our roads with," she said.

Instead of smoothing the road surface, she said, "If they were done right the first time, we

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## Bullard spotlights his support, experience in state Legislature

BY JENNIFER PLACINTO  
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Willis Bullard Jr. said he has the background and support his opponent lacks to win election to the 15th District state Senate seat.

Bullard, who was elected to the state Senate two years ago, served as a state representative for 14 years before winning special election to his current seat. Now he's seeking election to a full six-year term.

"I have 16 years of experience in the legislature," Bullard said. He said he's introduced 64 bills which were signed into law.

But he's not taking the competition lightly. The senator said he's out every night and day campaigning, mainly focusing on group events.

Lowering the income tax rate

from 4.4 to 3.9 percent, supporting public education through increased funding and improving the roads are his primary objectives.

Bullard said he recently supported a measure to provide supplemental appropriations to public education from a budget surplus. He introduced a bill over a year ago to cut the income tax and he supported the 4-percent gasoline tax increase for more road improvement funding. With that funding and additional federal dollars, Bullard



Please see BULLARD, A5

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