

STATE HOUSE CANDIDATES • 37TH DISTRICT

Election '98

Farmington Hills and Farmington voters will go to the polls Tuesday, Nov. 3 to make their choice for state Representative, a two-year seat. Republican Andrew Raczkowski is the incumbent. His challenger is Democrat Steve Dibert. If elected, Raczkowski would serve his second term. Term limits apply in the state House.

QUESTION 1: What issues concerning your constituency and district do you believe you can bring to the attention of Lansing?

QUESTION 2: What qualities do you feel you can bring to the state House?

QUESTION 3: How do you stand on the state ballot issues?

QUESTION 4: Does Proposal A need changing?

QUESTION 5: What's your position on charter schools, as well as the voucher program?

QUESTION 6: What can the state do to improve the quality of education?

QUESTION 7: How would you build bi-partisan consensus in the state House?

REPUBLICAN

INCUMBENT ANDREW RACZKOWSKI



Reserve Officer, member of the Optimist Club, Jaycees, chamber of commerce, Republican club, American Legion Post 346.

Revenue sharing for road construction, funding for proper use by our schools, welfare accountability and social/urban reconstruction. I have already begun to work on these issues. I am running for the leadership position of Floor Leader, allowing our community to have a formidable seat at the table.

I would continue to bring the courage to fight for our issues, skill of listening to people and experience and direction to move our district to the forefront of leadership on important issues. With term limits, the experience candidacy brings allows us to be the next generation of leadership, if re-elected.

I support Proposal C, Clean Michigan, due to environmental issues covered in the proposal to include the clean water and urban sprawl/brownfield development. I oppose Proposal B, assisted suicide, due to legal impact on pain management and HMO insurance coverage that may not cover full pain management as referenced by Oregon.

Yes. Proposal A passed in 1994 does require some changes. I would institute allow in-district formula schools to have the same option to ask voters for bond approval. More importantly, I would do away with the Homeowner Transfer Tax imposed by the passage of Proposal A.

I have not opposed charter schools due to the spread of charters that deal with special needs that some public schools could not accommodate. Also, most of the charters set up are under auspices of Intermediate School Districts. I do not support vouchers, but do support tax credits. They allow for more parental choice in education.

Smaller class sizes, no social promotions, safer schools through expulsion of dangerous students, requiring students to be strong readers by third grade and district violence reports for parents are all ways to improve education. Also lower the amount of school districts 512-400, to cut bureaucracy, improve funds for education.

Bi-partisanship is extremely important in building trust and being successful with legislation. In my first term, I worked on successful amendments and four public acts. Other ideas have been passed that were originated in and by our office. You can get anything done as long as you don't care who gets the credit.

DEMOCRAT

CHALLENGER STEVE DIBERT



Business/Restaurant Task Force of the Farmington Visioning Committee. He sits on the Farmington-Farmington Hills Commission on Children, Youth and Family.

Effects of urban sprawl is a big issue in southeast corner of district. Public education is biggest concern for district. John Engler's policy has failed. Another concern is tax relief and health care cost containment for senior citizens. I want to raise the Homestead Tax Credit Threshold from \$68,000 to \$100,000 for all senior citizens.

Being a state representative means getting involved in the community. I campaigned to pass the bond issue for schools. I worked on Business/Restaurant Task Force of Farmington Visioning Committee and helped write a five-year plan to revitalize downtown Farmington. Appointed to children, youth, families commission.

Reluctantly I support Clean Michigan proposal because we're stuck with a bill for Engler's incompetent managing of the DNR and DEQ. Yes to assisted suicide, but it's a personal and private matter. It's an issue of medical self-determination. It is an issue between a person and their God, not for courts, government.

It definitely needs to be changed. It has yet to do what Engler promised, to equalize school funding across the state. It created a deficit in School Aid Fund in 1996 forcing Legislature to inject \$300 million into it from general fund. A solution is to rededicate \$600 million from general fund stopped after the lottery was passed in 1976.

I support charter schools only under certain criteria. Vouchers don't work. Schools of Choice are nothing more than a variation on a theme of vouchers, instead of putting kids in private schools, we're busing them to wealthier districts. Farmington would be a loser. In some cases, the district would shoulder 40 percent of educating a transfer.

We need to enact state core curriculum standards that measure up to global standards. Education Action Zones should be set up to attack low standards, which will be responsible for straightening out problems with teachers, parents, community leaders. Local businesses and universities would be asked to begin mentoring and tutoring.

I work with Republicans, Children, Youth and Families, Farmington Visioning. I have supported Republican candidates for school board. The first thing a Democrat or Republican must remember is you are there to create solutions for problems, not to look for excuses why things can't get done.



Wouldn't it be great if we went through life without any problems? Well, that's not the way things are. We all struggle. But there is a way to face whatever comes along with peace, and with confidence.

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