POINTS OF VIEW

Observer readers speak out at election roundtable



Gena Glannuzzi





funothy J. King







Alfred H. Phillips





Cynthia A.W. Stickley



The following area residents participated in the Observer Newspapers Election Roundtable on Sept. 23 and 24. The Sept. 23 discussion, moderated by editors Joanne Maliszewski and Tedd Schneider, focused on the Michigan gubernatorial race. Thursday's discussion centered on the statewide ballot proposals. It was moderated by editors Dave Varga and Leonard Pager. Featured today is the gubernatorial discussion. On Thursday, the the ballot issues will be discussed. Readers from throughout the Observer circulation area were given opportunity to join the panel and express their opinions.

- express their opinions.

 **DEM GABANIZZI, 32, is a stay-nt-home more who holds a backe-tor's of seience degree in psychology and public administration. Her community involvement is Right-to-Life and schools. Her election issues are assisted suicide, abortion and education.
- tion and education.

 **MHAIL 5. KANDAM, 33, has two
 years of college and has completed an apprenticeship. Ho is
 employed as an electrician at
 Chrysler Corp. He is a UAW
 member. He never misses an election. He is the father of two children. His issues are public education, workers rights, tuxes and
 roads in that order. He lives in
 Canton Township.

 **THEORY I. MISS 47. badds a mas-
- Canton Township.

 -Thiomy J. Ruo, 47, holds a master's degree in rehab counseling.
 He has four children who attend Redford Union Schools. A Redford Township resident, he describes himself as a "soccer dad," His issues are campaign finance reform, support of public education, land use turban sprawl, exceptions, the support of public education. tion, land use (urban sprawl, environment, health care, insur-ance regulation, privatization or government services and mental health policy - in that order. He works as a vocational rehab con-sultant in the private sector.
- sultant in the private sector.

 JUSTIN KUKILUS, 15, is a Close-Up is at Close-Up is student at Plymouth Canton High School. Close-Up is a sophore level class designed to teach about local, state and national government and to prepare students for active citizenship. Part of the class involves a trip to Washington, D.C. Close-Up is a required course at Plymouth Canton High school. He was interested in the election roundtable because he wants to roundtable because he wants to be an active citizen when he is 18 and can vote. He lives in Canton Township.
- Township.

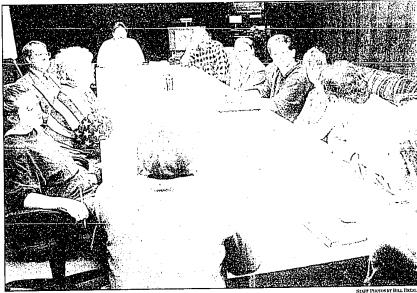
 Annale Mariette Morrison, 38, lives in Farmington. She is a part-time secretary and home maker. She has a bachelor's degree from Northwood University, Her community involvement includes Gub Scouts and the community building of a playground.
- playground.

 AURED H. PRILLIPS, 64, is retired from GM. He lives in Livenia. He holds a bachelor's of science degree in mechanical engineering and a master's in business administration. His professional affiliations includes Brown University Engineering Association. He is president of the Mended Hearta (support croup). He also is active in a food distribution group. His issues are physician-assisted suicide, school system improvements (particularly Detroit), election of environmentally-conscious candidates, election of those opposed to privatizing Social Security.

 **Dar RHOADES of Garden City has
- Im RHOADES of Garden City has JM RINOLES of Garden City has an associate's degree in architecture. He is self-employed in Remco Remodeling and Design. He is a member of the National Remodelors Association. He is 4 and his issues are education (teacher accountability), crime reduction, tax reduction and government reduction.
- ornment reduction.

 GYMHA A.W. STICKLY, 35, of
 FARMINGTO Hills is a chemist at
 EFTEC North America LLC. She
 holds a bachelor's of science
 degree in chemistry from the
 University of Michigan and a
 master's in science from the
 University of Datroit. Her professional affiliation is the American
 Chemical Society. Her community involvement is the Salvation
 Army. She lives in Farmington
 Hills. Her Nc. 1 issue is physician assisted sulcide.
- cian-assisted suicide.

 »VAL Wots, 51, of Wayne works as an office manager. Her community involvement includes the Wayne Cable Commission and Civitans (a service group). Her issues are health care, Social Security, crime and honesty. She attended college for two years.



Community volces: Discussing issues at the Observer Election Roundtable on Sept. 23 were (clockwise, from far left) Gina Gianuzzi, Val Wolf, Timothy King, reporter Tony Bruscato, Jim Rhoades, Cynthia Stickley, Justin Kuxhaus, Annalee Marlette Morrison, Khalil Kandah and editors Tedd Schneider and Joanne Maliszewshi.

Among citizens' concerns: Morality, education, taxes

BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER tbruscato@oc.homecomm.net

thruscate@ochomecomm.net
There was no shortage of opinions concerning Gov. John
Engler, his Democratic challenger Geoffrey Fieger, the state
of Michigan's educational and
road systems, and the state of
morality and religion in political
campaigns when eight members
of the Observer Election
Roundtable met recently to discuss the state's gubernatorial
race.

Roundtable met recently to discuss the state's gubernatorial race.

"Tm worried about health care education and morality," said Val Wolf of Wayne, who has been active politically for 33 years.

"I care about children, and those of us interested in social issues, including education, are underrepresented," noted Cynthia Stickley of Farmington Hills.

A mother of three, Gena Giannuzzi of Westland said she's "very concerned how someone like Geoffrey Fieger could be a candidate for governor."

And a "very conservative" Jim Rhondes of Garden City, active in politics for 25 years, hos a "real concern about crime issues and individual rights."

Annalee Morrison of Farmington, Timothy King of Redford, along with Justin Kuxhaus and Khalil Kandah, both of Canton, helped round out the forum designed to give readers a chance to tell us what's important to them in the November election. Some of the ideas merged with the candidates' views, while others might be good food for thought by those running for public office.

Governor's race.

Governor's race

The first step was to find out where everyone stood on the can-

didates.

And, as you might expect, the split somewhat parallels the current polls. Six of the panel favored Engler, one supported Fieger, and another thought neither candidate should represent Michigan.

Fieger, and another thought nei-ther candidate should represent Michigan.

"I have a hard time supporting Fieger after he said Jesus was a goodball," anid Stickley. "I like Engler and his tax cuts. I want charter schools and school vouchers."

I support Engler because he has created educational equity, said Rhoades. "Geoffrey Fieger has the class of Dack-elley punk. He says things I wouldn't say to my associates, and I hang out with biker trash." Fieger is a religious bigot," added Giannuzzi. "He represents those who are very extreme left, so I would have to

vote for Engler. I support a lot of things he does for education."
Kandah's choice is Larry Owen, but said he will support leger.

"I cant back Engler. I haven't noticed a tax reduction in my neighborhood, and I've seen an assault on public education," he said. I want to elect a governot that will provide equal education, fairness and truth in taxation. Figer does talk about tax cuts."

King plans to leave his vote for governor blank, seeing nothing in either Engler or Figer to get excited about.

I was hoping someone would step forward who is respectable for governor. I can't support cither the Republicans or Democrats in this election."

Morality

backup because of construction. Our panel had differing ideas of whether the timing was right for whether the timing was right for read chartection, was right and twing the worst roads," said kuxhaus. "In my opinion, said kuxhaus. "In my opinion, said whit's happened to the roads since 1990. I work on the weekends and the excited about.

"I was hoping someone would step forward who is respectable for governor. I can't support cither the Republicans or Democrats in this election."

Morality

Just five minutes

Morality

In this political year, what would any election be without a discussion of morality, from the White House to the governor's

mansion?

Morris on believes the personal lives of officeholders are "up for grabs because they're public servants. If they choose to be indiscreet and lie, then it's grounds for immediate dismissal."

"You choose that lifestyle. If you don't want to be scrutinized, then don't get into politics, agreed Stickley.

"Immorality in office is unacceptable," added Wolf. "It's also unacceptable to elect someone (Fieger) who has been openly abusive to his wife."

However, not all the forum members believe thet morality has to come into play in the voting booth.

"We all have certain things we regret and would like to forner

"We all have certain things we regret and would like to forget about. Let's take a look at the big picture," said Kuxhaus.

Giannuzzi cautiously agreed, saying "I believe people can change in life."

change in life."
"Moreality is not just Bill
Clinton's affair," suggested
Kandah, "Some people would
offer that closing down
Lafayette Clinic and putting
people out on the street is
immoral. Taking away the
rights of teachers to strike is
immoral."

You can't drive anywhere these days without finding an . orange barricade or a traffic

Just five minutes

Election)

Just five minutes

If given five minutes with the candidates, these panel members knew exactly what they would tell Gov. Engler or Geoffrey Fieger.

"I would talk to Engler, because he's going to be governor any, and tell him to be a cheerleader of public education, not of private schools and be a top notch scholar."

I would talk to Engler, not Fieger, "admitted Morrison. "I would talk to Engler, not Fieger," admitted Morrison. "What weighs heavily on my mind... are consequences for bad action. If people screw up, then they need to serve the penalty. If you get caught drunk driving, you should get the maximum penalty the first time."

"I've been very fortunate talk to Engler, and have told him

penulty the first time."

"I've been very fortunate to talk to Engler, and have told him there are programs of his I agree with and others I don't, said Wolf. "If I could talk to Fieger for five minutes I would tell him he's a wonderful attorney... you have a degree in drama so go on Brondway, but don't serew up our state."

"The a bank had been fortuned in the state of the series with the serie

our state."
"I've also had the chance to talk to Engler, and he's approachable," added Rhoades. 'One of the major problems we have with government is that it's too big. Cut some of the programs and focus on primary 'coals of what government should do, like roads and education."

oo, like roads and caucation.

"I would talk to Engler about
his education policies," said Kuxhaus. "I would tell Fieger to
keep his personal beliefs to him-

self. If you take public office, then you do things for the public. You put your personal beliefs to the side."

Campaign propaganda Our panel members were turned off by political jousting in campaign ads. They want to hear facts, not fiction.

"If I see commercials with bad

mouthing, it just turns me off moutning, it just turns me off and you've lost your vote from me," said Morrison. "I just want to see the facts, what you stand for"

r. "Republicans have to outspend Democrats because the liberal media pretty much covers the Democrats," added Giannuzzi. "To get out the more conservative moral message needs addi

tive moral message needs addi-tional funds because it's not going to be reported."

"Campaigning really disap-points me. The negative ads and personal attacks are the rule, compared to the boring stuff like the issues." said King. "We should have 100 percent finan-ing of campaigns. If I had not-city same recognition and lets

riety, name recognition and lots of money I could get elected."
Wolf adds "I think the ada by Engler on what he's done and what he stands for are very good. There needs to be a debate. I There needs to be a debate. I haven't seen anything of substance from Fieger, not even a platform.

"We should thank him for being himself," added Morrison. "At least he's not taking us for fools."

The religious vote
Should religion and politics
mix in a political campaign?
"Religious views mean almost
little to me," said Kandah, a
church-going Catholic. "Religious issues are a personal view,
not a government thing. Mixing
religion and politics doesn't go
well."

religion and politics doesn't go well."
"I think there's a lot of confu-sion between religion and Chris-tian beliefs," added Rhondes. "Morals and ethies are muddled by people who think it's being religious."
"I will vote for someone no matter what religion," said Stickley. a enforceclamyd evan-

matter what rollgion, sand Stickley, a self-proclaimed evan-gelical Christian. "I don't see issues like abortion and assisted suicide as religious, but moral issues. However, maybe my religious views do have something to do with it ..."