

Elections

Cast your vote for Knollenberg

When a congressman has a district that has been "packed" with voters from his own party, he must resist the temptation to get fat in his thinking. So it's with pleasure that we find the 11th District's Joe Knollenberg still running lean though not mean.

Knollenberg, a Republican from Bloomfield Township, is seeking his fourth term in the U.S. House. Democrats have offered only token opposition. Granted there are few elected Democrats in the Legislature or county boards from western Oakland and Wayne counties, it strikes us that the Democrats could have fielded someone with experience on a nonpartisan school board or city office as a challenger.

In his second term, Knollenberg got a seat on the Appropriations Committee, which is where the money is spent. He may not claim unilateral credit for the nation's first balanced budgets in one-third of a century, but he was certainly a team player in the action.

He has made a reasoned attack on the Kyoto accord, the harm it would do to energy-consuming industries, and the Clinton administration's back-door efforts to implement it. We would quibble with his vote in favor of requiring a two-thirds vote of Congress to raise taxes (it smacks of minority veto power), but there is no question many of his constituents support supermajorities.

In all six years in the House, Knollenberg has spent less than his office allowance, demonstrating he puts thrift first and electioneering second.

In every endeavor of his adult life, Knollenberg has emerged as a leader — his parish council, the public school PTA, his homeowners' association, a city park development committee, the Republican district and county committees ... and so on.

Good ol' Joe has worked hard to improve the quality of community life, from the subdivision to the global economy.

We endorse Joe Knollenberg.

Return Bullard to state seat

The race for the 15th District State Senate seat this year has seen some new faces. Foremost is newcomer Ruth Fuller, D-West Bloomfield.

Fuller has brought some important issues to the surface, questioning the responsibility of the state toward the mentally ill and the handling of state funds. She has expressed some strong views and challenged the current legislation to offer some alternatives.

As a candidate we think Fuller has been strong. Unfortunately her lack of prior political experience makes her the underdog for long-time incumbent Bill Bullard, R-Highland.

During his 16 years in the legislature, Bullard has worked hard to cut taxes with a degree of success. He spearheaded the induction of Proposal A which has paid off tremendously. This is his biggest pull.

We are fortunate to live in an area where the economy is strong, both in the community and in the home, generating a solid economic forecast.

Times are good as we experience tremendous growth and an expanded tax base. Status quo in the state government may be the most we can vote for to maintain our quality of life.

We hope as we send Bullard back to the senate that he pays more attention to what is going on at the local level. We hope he becomes a little more aggressive in addressing problems such as road repairs, community mental health and the fate of our ever growing senior population during this next term. These are issues he will have to live with as a resident after he is term-limited out. Our endorsement goes to the incumbent, Bill Bullard.

Cast your vote for Raczkowski

Incumbent state Rep. Andrew Raczkowski has put hard work into his first term in the state House. He has been accessible and visible in the 37th District, which includes Farmington and Farmington Hills.

While we do not agree with all of his stands on issues, we believe he has given his heart and commitment to the district. We also believe that he has worked to complete for the district and his constituents and should be returned to another term in the state House. We urge voters to cast a yes vote for Andrew Raczkowski.

The first-term legislator has his sights on becoming the youngest floor leader in the coming term. Obviously, it would be a boon to his career. But it could also be a boon to the Farmington-Farmington Hills district, which would benefit from a louder voice in the state Legislature.

Some of the issues we ask Raczkowski to pursue with diligence are road improvements

and road financing, maintaining, if not increasing, state shared revenues for Farmington and Farmington Hills, working to repeal a new law that allows only certain communities to offer businesses 100 percent property tax abatement — a means of enticing companies away from existing homebases.

We also ask Raczkowski to let go of some of his budding egotism and his hardline party politics. True, party politics can help to build consensus. But it isn't always that type of consensus that helps build bridges and resolve issues for constituents and local municipalities. The district needs a legislator who will do what's right for the people and the area, not what's right for the political party, which has its own agenda.

Raczkowski needs more seasoning that a second term can give him. We expect him to be accessible and visible, and to work with constituents and local municipalities. On Tuesday, Nov. 3, we recommend Raczkowski.

Return Moffitt to county seat

David Moffitt has been an adept player on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners for 14 years.

He is seeking re-election to another two-year term for the 18th District, representing Farmington Hills north of 10 Mile.

We believe he has a proven track record of reasonable decisions, leadership and hard work and should be returned to again serve on the commission. Cast a yes vote for Moffitt, who is running against Democrat newcomer Ryan Gesund.

Our support of the Farmington Hills resident also comes with a word of admonishment. We urge Moffitt to take the rules concerning campaign finance reports more seriously and file the reports within prescribed deadlines.

Moffitt told the Observer that he is financing his campaign mostly with his own money. That's why it leaves us wondering what is the difficulty in filing the required forms by the designated deadlines. Paying a \$500 fine as he recently did is not good enough. The voters in this regard deserve more respect.

We are, however, confident that Moffitt, armed with plenty of knowledge of county government and accompanying issues, will con-

tinue to use reason and sensitivity in his votes on the county board.

His track record shows deep involvement and commitment to his district and to the county government. He is chairman of the commission's public services committee, zoning coordinating committee, court reform study committee and rules revision study committee.

Moffitt introduced legislation to bring the 911 issue before the county board. We need immediate action on this issue. The time has come.

Moffitt also opposed the transfer of mental health services to an independent authority because legal and policy safeguards he introduced for consumer responsiveness and voter accountability were not enacted.

Though Moffitt believes computer technology is a better choice for constituents to communicate with the county, we still believe that the Farmington area is in need of a satellite county office. We urge Moffitt to follow his constituents' demands.

Cast your vote for David Moffitt and return him to complete his work — such as fully debriefing commission meetings — on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

ARKIE HUDKINS



LETTERS

Serve electorate

Why am I not surprised that David Moffitt has still not filed his campaign finance report, as your recent edition advised? He has been our commissioner for over the last dozen years — out of the 30 years that the Rolicks have been residents of Farmington Hills — as was his mother before him. This past primary was the first time that he has seriously attempted to court our votes, which I believe was the result of the fact that this was the first time he was challenged by a well-qualified opponent. What really surprised me was that Linda Jolicœur did not unsent him!

If David Moffitt is really serious about being the commissioner for the 18th District, he ought to try harder! He needs to be in touch with his constituency regularly, not just at election time. He needs to learn to answer phone calls from voters. I am not the only voter in his district who complains that phone messages to both his home and office go unanswered. He needs to learn that he is the representative of this district, not a member of the House of Windsor, and his vote should reflect the wishes of his electorate and not his own political agenda. He should start taking lessons from some of his fellow commissioners who do all of these things, all the time. That includes getting campaign finance reports submitted in a timely fashion.

Joan A. Rolick
Farmington Hills

Re-elect Phil Power

With all the commotion at the top of the Nov. 3 ballot this year, I think it's especially important for Michigan citizens to realize there are many solid people from both parties running for election to less-known and, perhaps, less visible positions.

One such person is Phil Power, a Democrat who is running for re-election to the University of Michigan Board of Regents. As a newspaper publisher, columnist and regent, Phil Power has been an exceptional voice for civility, moderation and common sense. I urge all Michigan citizens, regardless of party affiliation, to join me in voting to re-elect Phil Power to the U of M Board of Regents.

William G. Milliken
Traverse City

Remember your family

I'm sure you've all heard of Dr. Jack Kevorkian. We've all made our jokes, I know. But this is a serious issue that he has brought up. Is it moral to do what he's doing and should it be legal?

There has been a lot of debate about this issue. He has tried to sell the organs of a particular corpse, and the doctors wouldn't take them. They didn't know what condition they had been removed in, or how functional they

were before death. Sort of like, "We don't know where it's been."

The police can't arrest the so-called doctor because somehow they can't find any incriminating evidence of the assisted suicides.

Now people, if I were suicidal, I wouldn't ask a creepy looking guy like Kevorkian to be the last person who I see before I leave this earth. I'm not criticizing you, I'm sure you've been through enough already. At least let your family and/or loved ones to be able to see you before you go. It's really painful for them, or so I imagine. Have some dignity and die with your loved ones knowing you'll be all right. Or don't die at all. Suicide really isn't the answer. It may be a quick fix for you, but not your family. You'll be remembered as a truly sick person who just couldn't take it. I hope I never end up like that. Just another poor soul who gave in to Kevorkian's wrath. You will be remembered as emotionally unstable and thought of as just one of those people couldn't handle it, or couldn't swallow the whole. And while people continue to change the channel, your family will be missing you with the whole of their hearts.

For him to steal all the warmth and compassion that your loved ones have for you and flush it down the drain is immoral and unjust. No one deserves this type of treatment, especially not people you love.

Megan Drozan
Farmington

Tragedy compounded

I am writing concerning the case of a 17-year-old Farmington Hills young man, Joseph Novell, charged with negligent homicide in the traffic death of a pregnant 18-year-old young lady, Julia Serda.

I am sickened over this case. I totally and wholeheartedly disagree with the decision by Judge Gail McKnight of Westland to charge this young man. Why are we, the community, letting the judge and prosecuting attorney, Wade McCann, ruin the life of another young person by charging Mr. Novell? What a tragedy compounded! It literally makes me sick.

The situation is a terrible tragedy. Julia Serda died, and her baby will now be without a mother. I am sensitive to the feelings of Julia's family. Julia was unquestionably too young to die.

Julia died in an accident. It was a situation involving two young drivers who did not have the experience to err on the side of caution and who each made a split-second decision. Had either of them decided differently, Julia would be alive today.

The law could not possibly have been developed to be used this way. We need to look out for our young people, and this is not the way to do it. The charges need to be dropped.

Jennifer Price McFall
Farmington Hills

Farmington Observer

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— Philip Power