

## OUR VIEWS

### Schwarz is best pick in GOP race

Republican voters on Aug. 6 should select John J.H. "Joe" Schwarz as their nominee for governor. Schwarz is the candidate willing to tell voters what they need to hear, not just what they want to hear. He is the candidate who is shooting the straightest this primary season.

Most important, he's the one telling GOP voters the depth of the state's budget problems, and how the party has drifted too far to the right.

Schwarz believes Michigan's GOP has moved too far to the right. His opponent, he believes, represents a continued slide in that direction, and therefore would be "unelectable" in the general election runoff in the fall.

We agree. After 10 years of domination by the Republican party in the halls of the Capitol, the next governor cannot count on such complete control of the legislative process.

Schwarz certainly has the experience working with the Legislature and the legislative process; he has served in the state senate since 1986, elected to the post of President Pro Tem of the Senate every year since 1993.

His resume lists terms as a city commissioner and mayor of the City of Battle Creek, so he understands local government as well. Schwarz' resume also includes a great deal of time serving as a physician.

One of the uncomfortable truths Schwarz is talking about is his belief that the state budget remains badly out of balance. Despite recent action in the Legislature to increase tobacco taxes and trim programs, he contends the budget will still fall short some \$970 million.

Schwarz advocates the relatively painless solution of delaying scheduled rollbacks in income tax and Single Business Tax rates for just a couple of years.

Schwarz classifies himself as pro-choice, saying that abortions should be available, safe and rare.

Schwarz represents a badly needed move toward the center, and would bring the party back to a position of representing the remainder of the state.

### Dems find moderate in Granholm's race

Democratic voters in the August gubernatorial primary should select Attorney General Jennifer Granholm, who is the most thoughtful and articulate candidate, and the one most willing to talk about the issues and their specifics in depth.

After a decade of one-party domination in state government, Michigan also needs a moderate in the governor's office, a need Granholm both fills and understands.

"I have been well flowered in Lansing with the partisan acrimony that exists," she said in an interview with our editorial board.

In fact, "inclusion/diversity" is one of the "five core values" around which her campaign revolves. The other values include "creativity/outside-the-box thinking," integrity, engagement and excellence.

Her stance as a moderate is also reflected in her positions on the issues. She opposes the recent tax hikes intended to solve the state's budget crunch, and further argues that the Single Business Tax should be eliminated. While understanding of the concerns of school districts which are asking for changes to Proposal A, Granholm "would not return to a millage-based system for funding our schools." Rather, she would like schools to have more options for making capital improvements and allow for the creation of foundations to which residents could contribute to support school district programs.

She has laid out intricate plans for addressing issues such as economic development, urban sprawl and controlling the cost of health care.

Unlike many politicians, Granholm allows her views to evolve as more information becomes available. Very visible as an opponent of concealed weapons legislation, Granholm now says the problems she feared and predicted have not come true. She says she is now taking a "wait and see" approach to the reformed CCW laws.

Granholm will serve the Democratic party best in the coming general election, and is best suited to serve the state as a whole, should she win the day in November.



Joe Schwarz



Jennifer Granholm



Inside a cornerstone laid in 1929, St. Xavier Valance and Jean Vickers of the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center found several newspapers, including this one which proclaimed in a banner headline, "Crippled child slain leaping from thug's path."

## LETTERS

### Brady's honest

District Judge Candidate Jim Brady has been the energetic and enthusiastic coach of my son's Farmington Hills Hockey Association team for several years. In that time, I've known him to deal honestly and fairly with the young athletes, as well as with their families.

Jim has coached winning teams and those whose standings have hovered around the middle. In the good times and bad, he has shown strong leadership and character.

Fortunately, I've never had to sweat an official court appearance in front of current Magistrate Brady; however, if I did, I expect that same integrity he shows as a coach would come through as a judge.

AnneMarie Pedersen  
Farmington

do not exactly follow mandates set by public education systems. Indeed private schools can select the students they choose to educate.

The most pressing issue when dealing with vouchers is whether these modest funds would be enough for low-income families to use in order to fund their child's education. Two years ago in Michigan, the proposed allotment under the recommended voucher system (which was voted down) was \$3,000 per student. Would that actually help a low-income family in need of fulfilling a \$10,000+ tuition bill or would it be merely waving a carrot in front of a rabbit?

The only way to ensure top quality education, while allowing the private schools to regard to their own acceptable practices, is to save public funds for public schools.

Ultimately, public schools must become schools of choice as well.

Dave Klinchen  
Farmington Hills

### Vouchers discriminate

Vouchers for any private school are discriminatory. Private schools are not prepared or required to provide facilities and classes for all students.

There are many outstanding private institutions, of all types, but by and large these schools are serving groups that are the easiest to teach. It is the job of the public schools to accommodate all children, whether they are developmentally disabled, physically or mentally challenged, in need of speech or occupational therapy, or even intellectually gifted and in need of more challenging classes. If private schools were able to make all these accommodations, they would be public schools.

Of course private schools can generate higher scores on standardized tests. It is a wonderful privilege for the children who attend these institutions. But using tax money that is designated to create a level educational playing field for vouchers tilts the system so horribly that only the most disenfranchised students would be the ones left in public schools.

It's an easy solution to abandon distressed schools by transferring tax money. But then vouchers become a short-term fix for a long-term challenge. The only way in which public schools can be fixed and maintained is if taxpayers and parents have a vested interest.

David Richardson  
Farmington

### Officers back Brady

With the impending retirement of 47th district court Judge, Frederick Harris, Farmington/Farmington Hills voters will have to choose a candidate to fill this important judicial opening. The members of the Farmington Police Officer's Association have a unique insight into the operations of the 47th District Court and feel that experience is very important to look at in this campaign.

Judicial candidate Jim Brady has been a magistrate for the 47th District Court for the past 16 years and possesses this experience. Magistrate Jim Brady has always been fair, honest and knowledgeable when performing his duties on the bench.

Magistrate Brady's involvement in the community for over the past 20 years shows his commitment and dedication to the citizens of Farmington and Farmington Hills, and his 22 years as an attorney shows that he is well versed in the law.

The members of the Farmington Police Officer's Association unanimously support Magistrate Jim Brady and encourage the residents of Farmington and Farmington Hills to choose Jim Brady as their next District Court Judge.

Justin Dulong, President  
Farmington Police Officer's Association

### Public choice

Are modest amounts of public funds made available for low-income families even close to tuition standards of many private institutions that charge as much if not more than \$10,000 a year for education? Apparently the good people on the high court believe so.

With much respect and honor for each of the nine justices on the Supreme Court, I must offer a dissenting opinion on the ruling to allow public funds to be used for private education. There are numerous top private schools in Michigan as well as the nation. I commend them for their outstanding work.

This does not mean, however, that public funds should be used for their operations. After all, they have the choice to choose administrative practices that

### Can't have both

Mr. James Brady, Magistrate, candidate for judge in 47th District court: Got your brochure telling me how you listen to all who come before you and how fair you are. I also got your last brochure telling me of your close alignment with the Farmington and Farmington Hills Police Officers Associations. Thank you for the telling information.

Now, Mr. Brady, please tell us how you can eat your cake and have it too. You can't be that closely aligned with all the cops who hand out tickets, and at the same time be non-partisan in judging citizens those same police ticketed, with the ticketing officers standing there watching your courtroom.

Gotta tell you, Mr. Brady, it looks a lot like you are assuming we citizens are too ignorant to have picked up on that. I've been in your courtroom as a witness. I've seen you "listen" to the poor souls who come before you. Now you want their vote?

Kenneth Kemp  
Farmington Hills

### Votes pro-life

I have read many letters strongly supporting Democrat Aldo Vagnozzi for state representative. As a practicing Catholic, though, it is important for me to vote for pro-life politicians. I called Vagnozzi to ask his position and he confirmed that he is pro-choice. I attempted to confront him on the issue and he said he did not want to hear me, that even his priest at his local Catholic church supported him in his campaign. He and his wife had four children and never once had an abortion and that pretty much summed up his view. If indeed his priest does support him politically, this is another great scandal for the Church. Our religion does not give us the option of choosing to like or not like abortion as a law.

All voters who hold sacred life from conception until natural death must get out Aug. 6 and vote Republican. Vagnozzi may be a nice, old hard-working man but he is not willing to defend the innocent, as all Catholics should.

Claudia Taffe  
Farmington Hills

### Sign patrol

As a former mayor of Farmington Hills once said, "Let's not garbage up our city." In that regard, I suggest that all of the candidates ask their friends and supporters to take down their lawn signs and other signs within a week after the August 6th primary and not replace them until October 1, 2002. In addition, I am asking all of my friends and supporters, that if they see any of my signs that are damaged or blowing around to call my campaign headquarters so that my campaign workers can replace them. Fellow candidates, let us keep our two cities beautiful.

Paul Olizman  
Farmington Hills

## SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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## QUOTABLE

"Your talent was spectacular. I (would have) hated to be the judge."

Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates to new Miss Farmington Kelly Marie Zander, commenting on the contestants at the recent Miss Farmington Pageant.

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