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JACOBS

FROM PAGE A1

Senate seat. "I've always been a hands-on representative," she said. "Just because of the size of the district, I can't be at everything." She will make herself available to constituents and work hard to put people in touch with the services and agencies they need.

"Even though there's diversity, the services people need are very much the same," Jacobs pointed out. She decided to pursue the Senate seat to have a greater voice in the decision-making process, as one of 38 lawmakers, rather than one among 110 state representatives. Jacobs also looks forward to a much different culture in the Senate.

"Although there is partisanship, you work much closer together," she said. Among the concerns she'll take to Lansing if elected are access to health care, including lowering prescription drug costs and helping seniors with transportation to medical appointments; continuation of state revenue sharing and local control, for which she has long been an advocate.

"There are those in Lansing who only use this (local control) argument when it suits their purposes," Jacobs said. "If you believe in local control, you don't do this."

Jacobs believes there will be some tweaking of Proposal A, which constitutionally limits property tax increases until a home is sold and guarantees a certain level of funding for

school districts.

"Prop A had some unintended consequences," she said, explaining that older suburbs where homes don't turn over as much on the real estate market aren't generating enough in tax dollars to keep their communities going.

While she has her own concerns, Jacobs said she will bring to Lansing the issues that are important to her constituents. Even issues that may seem small by comparison are big to the people affected by them, she said.

"I think I will be an extremely effective voice for everybody in this district," Jacobs said.

Jacobs and her husband of 31 years, John, have two daughters, Jessica, 23, and Rachel, 26.

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WILKINS

FROM PAGE A1

school at Wayne State University.

He works as an engineer at Ford and is a National Education Association member.

"It has to be consistent," he said. "If we're going to maintain a strong state economy, we need to have people educated in the right areas."

Wilkins noted there are some companies that are bringing people in from other countries, because they can't find enough qualified workers in the U.S.

He believes Michigan's highly criticized mental health care

system will only get worse and foresees more and more people with mental illnesses ending up in jail cells.

"As an engineer, I look at things from a cost-benefit ratio," he said. "Putting people in jails is a benefit."

If elected, Wilkins plans to communicate with constituents through town hall meetings and a Web site. He believes in considering his community's needs first when balancing local and state-wide issues.

"It's been an education," he said of his erstwhile campaign. "I've gotten a lot of information from the NRA (National Rifle Association), Right to Life and also from groups like the

optometrists and health care professionals. It's interesting to see how much good there is. It's nice to see a lot of people trying to do good in the world."

Wilkins sees himself as a problem-solver, rather than someone who advocates for any particular issue.

"I think anybody who's hard-line on anything doesn't do us as a population any good," he said. "As an engineer, my education and background is solving problems. It isn't drawing a hard line in the sand."

Wilkins and his wife of 16 years, Roberta, have three children: Emily, 12, Caidin, 10 and Andrew, 7.

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FCB to play at Methodist Church

The Farmington Community Band will begin its 37th season with a special concert celebrating the rededication of the First United Methodist Church of Farmington at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 27. The program will begin with a brass fanfare, "Intrada" from Music for a Festival by Gordon Jacob and will feature Trombone Soloist Tom Kociela performing "Morceau

Symphonique" by Guilmant. Concert selections include: Music for a Festival - INTRADA, Gordon Jacob (Brass Ensemble); Prelude & Fugue in G minor, Johann Sebastian Bach; Morceau Symphonique Guilmant (Trombone Soloist: Tom Kociela); Amazing Grace, arr. William Himes; Sound of Music, Rodgers and Hammerstein; Elsa's Procession

To The Cathedral, Richard Wagner and Battle Hymn of the Republic arr. Willbousky. FCB Director Paul Barber said, "We are honored to have been asked to perform for the congregation and we're very happy to help them celebrate the re-dedication of their church. It's just what a community band should be able to do." The concert is presented free charge.

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