

## OUR VIEWS

### Granholt best for governor

Democrat Jennifer Granholt's campaign is one of inclusion, not only of people but ideas. She's actively soliciting constituents' input, even as she lays out her plans for state action.

Granholt cannot be counted as a traditional liberal, nor as a tax-and-spend Democrat.

The new governor faces a \$1 billion deficit walking in the door, and Granholt says she'll look at holding the line on state jobs, cutting waste, consolidating departments and re-engineering government. She is not looking at tax increases.

At the same time, she advocates continued investment in things that will create growth in the future, like quality education.

On her agenda are proposals to lower the cost of prescription drugs by leveraging the state's buying power, establishing technology corridors to help commercialize advancements in life sciences and auto technology, demanding corporate responsibility by ordering state agencies to stop doing business with companies that break the law and tightening laws against corporate crime, expanding access to affordable health care for working men and women, and to increase access to college for the state's youngsters.

Granholt is campaigning on five core values. They include integrity, engagement and excellence. Another is "creativity and outside-the-box thinking." But value number one is "inclusion/diversity."

"In my opinion, the best ideas are born of a diverse exchange of views. If everyone around the table looks and sounds and thinks the same, the resulting ideas will be the same old thing," she said.

That's the kind of thinking we need in Michigan. We strongly encourage voters to cast their ballots for Jennifer Granholt for governor on Nov. 5.

### Levin leadership needed in Senate

When voters go to the polls in November to select their officials for the next few years, they simply cannot afford to lose U.S. Sen. Carl Levin.

Washington is a strange place. Of course, voters want to select candidates who espouse the right views and will represent them there.

Once inside "the beltway," lawmakers quickly learn that having a particular viewpoint doesn't count for much unless they can work their way into a position where their opinions can have some impact.

Levin has been doing that — quite effectively — since 1978. He now yields influence in many of the nation's most critical issues. Today he chairs the Senate

Armed Services Committee, where he has a very direct say in the conduct of the war against terrorism.

He is also chair of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which studied money laundering and devised legislation to cut off the flow of money to terrorists, a bill which became a cornerstone in President George Bush's anti-terrorism package.

He is on the Intelligence Committee, and was among those who led the review of intelligence failures leading up to Sept. 11.

Simply put, he has become one of the most distinguished senators in the country.

His agenda is not purely international. He serves on the Small Business Committee, recognizing that better than 98 percent of all firms fall into that category.

He's on the Great Lakes Task Force, protecting waterways. He's on the Smart Growth Task Force, addressing sprawl.

It would be impossible to list here all the accomplishments of this Harvard Law School graduate and former member of the Detroit City Council. But in four terms in the Senate, he's carried the Michigan view to Capitol Hill and brought home funding for an array of federal projects here in the state.

In a political climate where it is no longer the norm, Levin puts substance over style. It would be a big mistake if Michigan voters failed to return him to the Senate this fall.



As the election approaches, more and more street corners like this one at Merriman and I-96 are being populated by campaign signs.

JOE JACOBELD/OBSERVER

### Kelley best choice for 11th District seat

Voters in the new 11th Congressional District have a choice between two qualified, intelligent and well-informed candidates with deep roots in the community.

The new district stretches from Belleville in Wayne County to White Lake Township in Oakland County and includes the Observer area communities of Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Redford, Westland and Garden City.

Republican candidate state Sen. Thaddeus McCotter, 37, of Livonia and Democrat Kevin Kelley, 44, supervisor of Redford Township, are both graduates of Catholic Central High School, both are from politically active families and both are former Wayne County commissioners.

But they differ significantly in their view of government.

The erudite McCotter proudly calls himself a conservative. He makes a

strong case for civil liberties and voices deep concerns about balancing liberty and security. He is a strong advocate of the right to bear arms. He supports making last year's tax cuts permanent because, he says, people are better off keeping their own money. But he acknowledges that many government programs are necessary and popular and he supports a larger military.

Kelley is an outgoing, action-directed public official. He aligns himself with centrist Democrats and says he will be a "deficit hawk" as a congressman. As a public official he has had to make the tough decisions that recent economic conditions demand.

But he fully understands the importance of government. As Redford Township supervisor he has been a leader in redevelopment. He's worked to improve sidewalks, pave streets and provide low-interest loans for home repairs in the aging inner circle suburb. Kelley supports a federal prescription drug program for the elderly, more government spending on education and federal support for infrastructure programs. At the same time, Kelley warns

about a government that spends money it doesn't have and a return to the record deficits of the 1980s. He supports slowing down implementation of the Bush tax cuts in light of the weakened economy and an impending military action.

Both Kelley and McCotter support the president on Iraq. But while Kelley voices concerns about a "first strike" policy and unilateral action, McCotter says the United States has a right to act unilaterally to "save American lives and interests."

The debate has been interesting, but we believe that Kelley has a better understanding of the role of government and the needs of the 11th District. Kelley also has shown his ability to work with all factions and get the job done. We believe his combination of support for necessary government programs, fiscal responsibility and his experience dealing with the needs of his community make him the better choice.

The Observer Newspapers recommends Democrat Kevin Kelley for U.S. Congress.

### Hollowell stands out for Secretary of State

The race for Secretary of State pits a Democrat who wears a deep passion for the election process on his sleeve against a Republican with a long resume of administrative experience.

In the end, Terri Lynn Land's tenure as Kent County clerk and former clerk experience in the Kent County Circuit Court is overshadowed by Melvin Butch Hollowell's vision for how the Secretary of State must better serve Michigan residents and his deep and varied background in election law.

For these reasons, Melvin Butch Hollowell, a Democrat from Detroit, receives our endorsement for Secretary of State.

Hollowell, a graduate of Albion College and the University of Virginia School of Law, is a nationally recog-

nized election specialist and shareholder with the law firm of Butzel Long.

He gained national attention and invaluable experience in running elections when he served as counsel to then-Vice President Al Gore during the Florida recount in the 2000 presidential election.

Hollowell also serves as general counsel of the Democratic National Committee's Voting Rights Institute in Michigan.

Hollowell no doubt has an impressive resume, but it is his passion for the election process and vision for the office he is seeking that sets him apart from his opponent.

Hollowell lists increasing customer service at the more than 170 branch offices, eliminating punch card ballots and adopting a comprehensive election education program as top priorities.

In addition, he says the office must do more to deal with the problem of auto repair fraud, saying the office has

not met its responsibility of regulating car repair facilities.

Hollowell has detailed plans on how to meet each goal.

He said he would push for the federal government to cover the estimated \$30 million cost of replacing punch-card voting booths with optical scanners, would reorganize branch offices to include a greeter and have dedicated lines for different services and boost staff training to increase branch efficiency, and would push to ensure that all state high school students learn how to register and cast a ballot as part of civics class.

Hollowell understands the importance the department has on the lives of Michigan residents, pointing out that more people have regular contact with the Secretary of State than any other state department.

The Observer & Eccentric recommends Melvin Butch Hollowell for Secretary of State on Nov. 5.

### Peters clear choice for attorney general

In the race for attorney general, state Sen. Gary Peters, D-Bloomfield Hills, brings a distinguished record of public service and a keen understanding of the role and influence of the office.

These qualities merit Gary Peters our endorsement for attorney general on Nov. 5.

The Michigan attorney general's primary role is the state's lawyer. The attorney general serves as legal counsel for the state's various departments and agencies and provides legal representation for legislators, the governor and judges.

The attorney general also provides legal opinions on Michigan law for legislators and local officials. The attorney general also is the chief law enforcement officer of the state with supervision of all prosecuting attorneys. It is this last duty on which Republican Mike Cox of Livonia has based his campaign. The assistant Wayne County prosecutor understands

the attorney general's position as a super prosecutor and argues that his experience in Wayne County as chief of the homicide unit makes him the better choice. As a prosecutor and head of his division he has received praise from his Democratic boss Mike Duggan.

He wants to beef up the attorney general's role in aiding county prosecutors. He is also passionate about pursuing parents who don't pay child support. He has some interesting ideas for reorganizing and streamlining the attorney general's office.

We respect his accomplishments and ideas but, we believe, Cox, 40, has far too narrowly defined the attorney general's role.

During his eight years in the Senate, Peters, 43, has been a widely respected legislator.

He has taken leadership positions on issues involving criminal justice, the environment and consumer affairs. He has served on the judiciary, finance, education and natural resources committees.

Peters argues persuasively that he has

a better understanding of the legislation he will be asked to interpret in his primary obligation as attorney general. He argues that he has a broader understanding of state government.

But Peters also recognizes the role of attorney general as a great "bully pulpit." Under longtime Attorney General Frank Kelley and gubernatorial candidate Jennifer Granholt, consumer protection has been the most public function of the attorney's general's office.

Cox is more interested in pursuing "street crime" and argues that most of the consumer protection actions are for show.

Peters understands that this is an area where the attorney general's public actions serve as both enforcement and deterrent to dishonest businesses.

The Democrat has broader experience, a passion for consumer protection and a better understanding of the role of attorney general.

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers recommends Gary Peters for attorney general on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

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