

Proposal K will protect educational opportunities for all region's children

On November 6, you can protect educational opportunities for kids and the quality of life to which your family and our community have become accustomed. How? By voting "yes" on Proposal K.

Passage of Proposal K will help 17 regional cultural institutions protect educational programs for kids. These include important hands-on educational programs in science, history, music and art offered by institutions like the Detroit Zoo, Henry Ford Museum, Center, Cranbrook Institute of Science and Detroit Institute of Arts.

Proposal K protects field trips to zoos, museums and performances — all valuable elements of a kid's education. And Proposal K helps institutions maintain classroom visits by scientists, artists, musicians, dancers and historians which lead to discovery, unexpected observations and astonishing inquiry.

These field trips and classroom programs feed our kids' imaginations and give them personal experiences with everything from chamber

music to the mysteries of outer space.

Each school year, approximately 1.5 million kids visit or have in-class presentations from the 17 regional cultural institutions that would benefit from Proposal K. Please keep that in mind when you vote Nov. 6. Proposal K is not merely about science, history, music and art. Nor is it about the buildings that host these experiences. Proposal K is about the role these institutions play in educating our kids.

If approved, the proposed tax also will protect Oakland and Wayne county community educational and recreational programs including parks, soccer fields and senior centers. Your "yes" vote on K protects programs in the region and in your backyard. The cost? Just \$28 a year.

Support for proposal K comes from every sector of the community including educators, business leaders, political figures, labor unions, cultural organizations large and small, and families. For our kids and quality of life for our community, please join us by voting "Yes" on Proposal K this November 6.

Dr. Marlene Davis is superintendent for Wayne RESA intermediate school district.

Ron Kagan is director of the Detroit Zoological Institute.

LETTERS

The name game

Rocky, T-Bone, Biff. Changing your name on the November ballot wouldn't make any difference anyway, A. J. Davis says. As a time powerhouse in the U.S. Senate and Chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

You picked a real inopportune time to run for his job. But at least it will give you some experience perhaps for things to come. Things change. I don't think even the movie character, "Rocky," was this big an underdog. You are going to get beat-up too, but at least it won't be a physical beating.

Kenneth Kemp
Farmington Hills

Supports Jacobs, Vagnozzi

Few municipalities of the State will have the opportunity to be represented in Lansing next legislative session by two more talented and experienced leaders than will Farmington and Farmington Hills, when the voters elect Gilda Jacobs to the State Senate and Aldo Vagnozzi to the State House.

Gilda Jacobs has served in city government as an officer in Huntington Woods, in county government as a member of the County Commission, and currently serves in a leadership position in the State House of Representatives.

In Aldo Vagnozzi, Farmington Area voters can send to Lansing a true pillar of the community. Aldo has served the community on the Farmington School Board, as a Farmington Hills council member, and as the first generally elected Mayor of Farmington Hills. No matter his long years of service to the community, Aldo is dedicated and ready to fight for the Farmington area in Lansing.

As a neighbor, I can only wish that I could join in the opportunity of sending two outstanding public servants to represent me in Lansing. Vote Jacobs for State Senate and Vagnozzi for State House on November 6.

Marshall S. Solomon
West Bloomfield

Moral obligation

Cardinal Adam Malda issued a letter to all Catholics of the Archdiocese of Detroit. The letter was read at all October 6, 2002 Masses.

In this very important and lengthy letter, the Cardinal clarified that "Catholic public officials have a special moral obligation to understand and accept wholeheartedly the Church's teaching on the dignity of the individual human life; they may never advocate for or actively support legislation which would allow direct attacks on innocent human life."

Apparently Aldo Vagnozzi and Jennifer Granholm missed Mass that Sunday. These two "pro-choice" Democrats have continued to ignore the Church's teaching.

As the Cardinal put it, Catholic political leaders cannot "... justify inaction with regard to the dignity of human life simply on the grounds that abortion is the law of the land, because ultimately, there is a higher law, the law of God."

All Catholics, and truly all God-fearing citizens, must vote for Valerie Knol and Dick Posthumus. They are people committed to protecting the innocent unborn. If we continue to accept the mentality that life is not sacred and can be snuffed out at a whim, we will bring God's justice down upon us.

Claudia Taffe
Farmington Hills

Survey says

While recognizing that an individual candidate may not control all the campaigning that is done to elect him/her, I am deeply disturbed by one of many phone calls I have received during this campaign for state representative.

Unlike the dozen or so "robo calls" that were taped lengthy messages from people like "Chris from the Michigan Chamber of Commerce," this one was placed by a person who said that she was conducting an election survey. She asked my choice for governor and for state representative.

When I responded that I would vote for Aldo Vagnozzi, she asked a series of questions calculated to cast doubt on Mr. Vagnozzi's ability and integrity. Each was phrased "Would it change your vote if you knew..." And each question stat-

OTHER OPINIONS

TV ads this election show that campaigns have gone too far

The saddest thing about our politics these days is the undisputed fact that TV ads work.

By concocting an image of a candidate or a spin on an issue, they substitute a flickering television screen for complicated reality. By their expense, they enable one-issue interest groups and their megabucks to infest the political process. And by linking big money with convenient message, they grease the way for image-mongers to dominate elections.

But as a practical matter, there's no doubt that when it comes to moving voters, you gotta go with TV.

In these few remaining days of an unrelenting and discouraging election season, consider two television campaigns to illustrate my point.

Proposal 4 is a constitutional amendment that would, if passed, divert some \$300 million each year in tobacco settlement money to the health care industry. The proposal is supported by a \$5 million advertising campaign, whose latest ad shows a woman dying of lung cancer in a hospital with the tag line, "Don't let Big Tobacco kill this proposal, too."

What's interesting about the ad is that "Big Tobacco" doesn't have a dog in this fight. Opposition to Proposal 4 is virtually universal across the political spectrum — Dick Posthumus and Jennifer Granholm, Brooks Patterson and Kwame Kilpatrick, John Engler and Ed McNamara and Frank Kelley. Support is limited to certain wealthy hospitals and the Michigan Hospital Association, whose activities are giving new meaning to the phrase "self-serving greed."

Only a part of the \$300 million would be earmarked to smoking prevention programs. Something like \$3 million a year would go to three guys in Lansing who have nothing to do with health care, while most of the public money would go to private hospital corporations that have no obligation to come clean about how they're spending it.

But if the polls are to be believed, Proposal 4 has a good chance of passing. TV advertising works.

The second example has to do with TV ads being run in support of Posthumus' campaign for governor. One has a clip of Granholm appearing to support reparations for former slaves, while the other runs a mug shot of Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick which suggests that electing Granholm would mean a "blank check" for Detroit.

Both ads use visual distortions. And in slinging the mud, both ads wallow into outright racial politics in a way I have never seen before in a Michigan statewide campaign.

A lot of people agree. The Detroit News, nor-

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really a reliable supporter for Republican candidates, called the ads "vile and racially divisive" and suggested that the paper was "fast wearying of the campaign's fixation on race baiting and 'gotcha' politics." Former GOP Gov. William Milliken last week attacked the ads as "morally wrong and politically stupid."

But, again, if the polls are to be believed, the ads are working. Support for Posthumus, especially among men in northern Michigan, appears to be picking up.

Interestingly, there's a link between both campaigns: Former Engler PR boss Dan Pero is both Posthumus' campaign manager and a partner in Lansing-based Sterling Corp., which is producing the "big tobacco" ads for Proposal 4.

When I called Pero last week to ask how he felt about running a campaign advocating a proposal that his candidate for governor is opposing, he replied he was "perfectly comfortable with the situation." He explained he has always favored the tobacco settlement money going for health care and that Posthumus has known all along his position on Proposal 4.

The book on Pero is that he's a very able, imaginative and decent PR guy who's got himself two lucrative clients this time around. My take is that if a guy as decent as Dan Pero is involved in creating a couple of snarfy but effective TV ad campaigns, that's the best evidence that things have gone much too far.

Phil Power is the chairman of the board of the company that owns this newspaper. He would be pleased to get your reactions to this column either at (734) 953-2206 or at ppower@homecomm.net.



Michigan telephone consumers want the simplicity and convenience of "one stop shopping" with competitive prices

Diane Webb

Support is growing throughout Michigan for SBC Ameritech's entry into the long distance market to compete against big companies like AT&T and MCI WorldCom. More than 60 civic organizations, chambers of commerce, state legislators and community leaders throughout Michigan are supporting the convenience and competition that will come with full local and long distance competition. Here's a look at some of the statewide supporters:

- Chambers of Commerce**

 - The Winthrop—Kalamazoo Area Chamber of Commerce
 - Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce
 - Greater Port Huron Area Chamber of Commerce
 - Gladwin County Chamber of Commerce
 - American Area Chamber of Commerce
 - The Economic Development Alliance of St. Clair County
 - The Right Place Program
 - Highland Park Business Association
 - Community Organizations and Leaders
 - HAZZLE Lake County and Township County Branch
 - The Senior Alliance (Southwest and Western Wayne County)
 - Michigan Coalition for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing People
 - Labor Americans United for Progress, Inc.
 - The Council of Better Builders of Detroit and Metro Area
 - Michigan Citizen Action
 - Life Mission Center
- The Black Caucus Foundation of Michigan**

 - Michael Sisk, Kent County Commissioner
 - Joseph Jones, 2nd Vice President, Grand Rapids NAACP
 - Mercedes T. Tooley

Michigan State Legislators

 - Rep. Rick Johnson, Policy Speaker of the House
 - Rep. Samuel Buzz Thomas, Jr. D-Detroit, House Democratic Leader
 - Rep. Susan Stoker, R-Muskegon
 - Rep. Michael Murphy, D-Lansing
 - Rep. Mark Schiavo, D-Grosse Pointe
 - Sen. Mark Dornan, R-Lake Orion
 - Sen. Philby Hoffman, R-Westland
 - Sen. Burton Leland, D-Detroit

Health and Education

 - Michigan Colleges Foundation
 - Detroit Entrepreneurship Institute, Inc.
 - Don Sofka, President, State College of Chiropractic
 - Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning

For more information on this and other telecommunications issues, visit www.connectmichigan.org



More than 60 civic organizations, chambers of commerce, state legislators and community leaders support full and long distance competition.

The Michigan Public Service Commission is considering a recommendation to the Federal Communications Commission about SBC's long distance application for Michigan. Although some big, out of state long distance companies will make noise, we hope to file with the FCC before the end of the year and begin offering long distance service to Michigan customers in the first quarter 2003.

When SBC is granted approval, consumers will have the convenience of one-stop shopping with competitive rates. Consumers in many states already enjoy these benefits... why not Michigan?

Diane L. Webb

Diane Webb
Director
External Affairs