

## 14th's best qualified

I want to call your attention to the candidate for County Commission 14th District who is best qualified to be a Commissioner. He is Ryan Gesund.

He has for four years studied the Commission by attending their meetings more regularly than some of the elected commissioners themselves. He has the welfare of the general public as his concern and not that of my corporation or special interest.

He understands the issues of Oakland County government as well as any sitting commissioner or candidate. He also understands that the Commission has essentially nothing to do with county roads - this is the province of the Road Commission, the County Executive, the State Highway Commission, and the municipalities in the county.

A vote for Ryan Gesund is a vote for honest county government and an improvement of our services and infrastructure.

**William Mattson**  
Farmington Hills

## Candidate visit

Highest compliments are in order for your editorial pangs and the impact had by your Letters-to-the-Editor section. Quite clearly people have been reading and acting upon those letters (mine included) in support of Aldo Vagnozzi's race for the 37th District Seat in the Michigan House.

For example, just this past Monday (10/21), Valerie Knol stopped by my house and left some of her literature with a handwritten note, to wit: "Hi Dan - I see you've been busy with letters to the editor, Valerie."

So thank you for printing my letters but, please, in the future, do not release my home address.

**Dan Greenberg**  
Farmington Hills

Editor's Note: The Observer does not release letter writers' addresses.

## Positive change

It is interesting that we hear nothing from Representative Knollenberg from one campaign to the next and now we hear about all of his great accomplishments.

He now, of course, follows

the Bush Administration's line - war on Iraq - and tax cuts which of course leads to our huge deficit.

I don't think this represents the thinking of his constituents who are very concerned about their jobs (or lack of) and the poor economy.

The time has come for some positive changes and David Fink deserves a chance to try to make some of those changes.

**Marlan Gumbelton**  
Farmington Hills

## Republican for Aldo

I have been a registered Republican for years. However, this year Aldo Vagnozzi has my vote.

For a person of 77 years, Aldo is full of life. His experience is an asset. He is endorsed by many organizations which promote the quality of life for the community, education, environment and family. Aldo is intelligent, full of vigor and vitality. He enjoys a full life. Aldo is his own man.

Miss Knol is not her own woman. We have seen her in a photo opportunity with Sheriff Michael Bouchard and other law enforcement officers from Farmington and Farmington Hills. We know Miss Knol is having her strings pulled and if elected will be a most willing political puppet for the Good Ole Boys of the GOP.

The vicious and untruthful eleventh hour letter about Terry Sever has loudly proclaimed how much of a political puppet Valerie Knol is. Who are her backers? Have you asked who is behind such stunts?

Aldo is his own person. His experience in our hometown is his legacy. He is a go-getter and a stand-upper as well as a stand out. Aldo has always done "what is right for his vote."

Aldo, you have my vote.

**Sam Clark**  
Farmington Hills

## Attack ad

In a recent radio ad, Congressman Joe Knollenberg attacked his lawyer-opponent by attempting to link him to the wrongs committed by one of his opponent's clients.

This type of attack by a member of the House of Representatives represents an appalling lack of understanding as to how our adversarial system of justice works. Many

individuals who become entangled in the legal system require the services of an attorney to assist them in navigating that system.

It is not a prerequisite of representation that an attorney agree with the wrongs committed by a client. The attorney's job is to give appropriate advice and counsel. The system works only when the alleged wrong-doer has equal access to legal representation.

The attack on David Fink by Congressman Joe Knollenberg is not merely an effort to paint Mr. Fink with the same broad brush as one of his clients, but is an attack on our entire adversarial system of justice. I would have expected far more from a sitting Congressman.

**Steven J. Matz**  
Farmington Hills

## Vote Smart

The words "A decent respect for the opinions of mankind" are in the first sentence of the Declaration of Independence. However, recent flashy-looking political ads mailed on behalf of Ms. Valerie Knol make me wonder how much credence the ad producers give to the phrase.

Her campaign ads to represent Farmington and Farmington Hills as our State Representative in District 37 are strongly critical of her competitor, Aldo Vagnozzi. At the bottom of all the glossy hype are footnotes claiming that she got information from a bipartisan organization called Project Vote Smart.

I looked up the group's website at [www.vote-smart.org](http://www.vote-smart.org) and learned quite a few interesting things. Gerald Ford, Barry Goldwater, Newt Gingrich, and Mark Hatfield are listed on its letterhead - along with many other present and past prominent Republican elected officials, presidential advisors, and cabinet members. They joined with many well-known Democrats in a quest to encourage more ethical standards in politics and a level playing field on which candidates may compete for our support.

Although Vote Smart has profiled 42,159 candidates, you won't find Ms. Knol's biography on their website. Here's what Vote Smart says about "Issue Positions Data" for Ms. Knol. "Over the course of several weeks this candidate repeatedly refused requests by citizens in

the candidates own state, leaders of both major political parties, major news organizations and Project Smart Stuff to provide voters with essential issue information in the National Political Awareness Test. This candidate would not provide this information to citizens in the candidate's own state - no matter who asked them, when they were asked, or how they were asked."

Why Vote Smart learned how she and her supporters sought to use the organization's good name for her attacks against Mr. Vagnozzi, it strongly protested. Quoting form one of their recent news releases, "The kind of negative campaign tactics that use the Project's name and reputation occurs in less than 0.05 percent of all races nationally. This kind of negative campaign activity is precisely the kind of misinformation that the Project attempts to counter with its factual database."

Whether a candidate is Republican or Democrat, male or female, first-timer or experienced, he or she owes the electorate at least a fair and honest campaign. Farmington and Farmington Hills voters certainly are entitled to decency instead of mere mudslinging, and the quality of a candidate's campaign can be one of the strongest predictors of the quality of service that the office seeker will provide if elected. We need the best.

**H. Bruce Carr**  
Farmington Hills

## Age not an Issue

I wonder where Peter Ojeda has been living in the last several weeks. Apparently not in Farmington/Farmington Hills. Otherwise he wouldn't make the statements he made in his letter to the Observer.

He claims that his candidate did not use the age issue against Mr. Vagnozzi. Numerous residents have told us they received phone calls from her campaign stressing the age issue. Maybe, she dropped it after finding out that Farmington/Farmington Hills residents are more interested in a candidate's experience, honesty and integrity rather than age.

That's why a substantial number of voters are telling us they are supporting Mr. Vagnozzi based on his excellent record as Mayor, City Council and School Board member and his heavy involvement on behalf of the two communities. As for standing tall, Mr. Vagnozzi has done that for our community even though he is only 5 foot 4 inches.

Mr. Ojeda, if you think your opponent has stopped the sneaky tactics in the primary

look at your mail and listen to the phone calls to know that she's still at it. Mr. Vagnozzi has pledged several times to carry out a clean, positive campaign based on the issues. The candidate Mr. Ojeda is supporting has refused to make that pledge. Enough said.

**Mark Barringer**  
Farmington Hills

## Vote Aldo

I am a mother of three young children and I realize that the kind of government officials we elect will have a great influence on their present and future lives. So I'm very much interested in the election of honest, capable candidates who have proven to work for the good of the public.

This year I'm very much concerned about the fact that two thirds of the state senate and almost half of the state house of representatives will be new because of term limits.

Many of the candidates are young people who have little or no experience whatsoever in local elective office nor enough community involvement that would give them knowledge of the real needs of our constituents and on how to promote good legislation for them. Inexperienced legislators can easily fall prey to the many special lobbyists who are eager to influence them with their own agenda which most likely is not in the best interests of consumers.

I hope, therefore, that we elect honest, consumer-oriented candidates who at least have held local elective offices and provided lots of community services which would have given them the political and social expertise needed to meet their constituents' needs.

Aldo Vagnozzi, who is running for State House Representative, meets my highest expectations of what I'd like my state representative to be. He's well known as an elected official (on the Farmington School Board, member of the Farmington Hills City Council, and City Mayor) and as a member and volunteer for many organizations working for the benefit of our citizens.

As a parent I especially admire him not only for being an activist to improve the lives of our seniors, but also for working on behalf of the education of the young. Besides being elected to the Farmington School Board, he was president of the Farmington Area PTA and president of the Beechview PTA. This additional experience will be of value when dealing with educational matters on the state level. That quality is important to me and I'm sure to other parents as well.

To top it all, as a journalist he reported on the Michigan legis-

lature for many years. The special interest lobbyists won't be able to pull the wool over his eyes for he sure knows his way around Lansing as well as they do and has always protected the rights of consumers. He would also be able to help the inexperienced legislators on legislative procedures.

I hope that our voters on Nov. 5 will recognize his worth and will elect him as our State House Representative.

**Mary Layne Katsarolas**  
Farmington Hills

## Election relief

Both major political parties, Republican and Democratic, have so poisoned the election process in recent weeks that the election itself will bring relief. Candidates for office and proposals for change have been characterized as fraudulent, scandalous, deceiving, or corrupt. The charges come from organization seeking election victory for their candidate or cause.

This candidate or that policy will win but confidence and pride in elections will lose. Decline in voter turnout, over the years, may well relate to the negativity of campaigning that increases each election. Why vote to elect one crook over another? Why participate in a process controlled by big money that buys time slots for advertisements, strategically interruptive?

Remember; candidates have never been perfect; elections have been flawed; and voters have not shown enough interest in all issues. But, in the past, the emphasis traditionally was on a candidate's qualification, past achievements and future plans, not on the other person's shortcomings.

My return to sensibility? Meanwhile, let's turn to "mute" or change stations.

**Lawrence Niblett**  
Farmington Hills


## Fink negative

Integrity. It's important in an elected official. Those who have it are honest, reliable, decent and true. Those who don't will stoop to any tactic to win office. It is clear that David Fink is integrity deficient in his bid to win the 9th District Congressional race, he has taken to the airwaves with blatantly false, negative advertisements against Congressman Joe Knollenberg.

Fink's lies are indicative of a candidate running low on character and a campaign running out of steam. Like a starving animal dying for food, David Fink is willing to do anything to stay alive.

**Derek Hodgins**  
Farmington Hills

# If You Are Pro-Life ...You Need to Know



## GRANHOLM SUPPORTS THE TERMINATION OF THIS CHILD

Your vote for Granholm is in direct conflict with the teaching of the Catholic Church, other Christian faiths and Islam. Countless innocent children will die by your support of abortion.

Jennifer Granholm is funded by Emily's List which requires candidates to:

**Oppose**

- Parental notification and consent laws
- Any restrictions of the heinous procedure of partial birth abortion

**Support**

- Taxpayer funding of abortion, contrary to Michigan State Law.
- Abortions for the full term of pregnancy with no exceptions.

Granholm supports the radical--extremist agenda of Emily's List

**VOTE FOR LIFE NOV. 5TH**  
Sponsored by Stop Granholm Church and Truth Project  
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