

Granholt pushes pending campaign finance reforms

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Jennifer Granholt, who will be Michigan's first new attorney general in 37 years, gained informal support from two Garden City service clubs on the need to reform election financing and eliminate negative campaigning. The 39-year-old attorney general-elect, the winner in the Nov. 3 election, addressed a joint meeting of the Garden City Kiwanis and Garden Rotary Clubs Thursday at Amantea's Restaurant, Garden City. Guests were Westland Rotarians.

Four persons who commented later the program liked her stand on improving the election process.

Granholt told the 40 people in the audience that "negative campaign ads pollute the process and affect the next generation" of voters.

"My sense is that people are sick of negative ads," she said. "This causes people to be turned off and stay home (on election day)."

The voters hear that the target of a negative campaign ad "is a bum and why should I vote" the candidate, she said.

Granholt, one of the few Democratic winners on a statewide basis Nov. 3, also said there is too much money available for the state political parties to spend on campaign ads. At the same time, the candidates are prohibited by law from having any control over the ads.

She urged her audience to contact their representative in Congress or their U.S. senator about the pending campaign finance reform proposal pending before Congress.

Richard Hammer Jr., a Garden City district court judge who previously worked in the attorney general's office, said he agrees with Granholt's stand on campaign reforms. Negative campaigning causes people to be frustrated with the electoral process.

"It's time to make changes," he said. "People are getting fed up and are speaking with their vote to say 'I don't like it.'"

Barbara Douglas, a Westland Rotarian and owner of an audiologic practice, said she agreed with Granholt's views on campaign reforms.

paing reforms.

"Her comments were refreshing," she said. "The whole political scene has to be uplifted."

Granholt's talk also expressed Barbara White, a Garden City school board member.

"She answered all the questions asked and gave people an understanding what she wants to do."

Dawn Clemening, a Garden City dental office manager, said she likes Granholt's views on fighting fraud in the managed medical care field.

Granholt's major priorities will be to form a unit to fight high-tech crime, combat insurance fraud as well in the managed health care field, and carry on her predecessor's "legacy" on consumer issues.

On the proposed high-tech unit, Granholt cited two problems. One is child pornography on the Internet. The other is people stealing credit card numbers and customers' names when purchases are made on the Internet.

In the area of consumer protection, Granholt said "The attorney general wants to make sure you're getting what you pay for."

She also cited telemarketing fraud, particularly among senior citizens.

On the lighter side of her talk, Granholt said her father, Victor Granholt, was a Rotarian in the San Francisco area.

"No one's perfect," quipped a Kiwanian, reflecting the good-natured rivalry between the two service groups.

Granholt will succeed longtime attorney general Frank Kelley. Before her election victory, Granholt was the Wayne County corporation counsel.

Speaking: Newly elected State Attorney General Jennifer Granholt discusses her plans, such as a high-tech crime unit to combat insurance fraud.



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Rheumatoid nodules are hard, pea size lumps that develop in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. The nodules are characteristic of rheumatoid disease and indicate that the condition will likely require extensive medical treatment.

The cause of the nodules is from immune complexes depositing in small blood vessels, with subsequent impairment to the blood circulation in surrounding tissues. This leads to erosion, combined with pressure on the skin, sets up the conditions needed for the nodules to start. For these reasons nodules are most often found at the elbow, in the thumb and second finger, at the heel and at the inside and outside margins of the arch of the foot.

Not all lumps in these areas are rheumatoid nodules. At times your doctor may want the nodules removed and studied under the microscope to determine if a rheumatoid nodule is present.

Rarely you will develop a rheumatoid nodule within the body such as in the lung. In this instance the doctor needs a biopsy as nothing short of examining the specimen will decide if you have an internal rheumatoid nodule, or started an otherwise unexplained cancer.

Vigorous treatment of your arthritis may stop development of the nodules, though in some cases, methotrexate, a good arthritis medication, causes you to develop even more of them. A surgeon can remove bothersome nodules, but they tend to recur.

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