

AKOURI
FROM PAGE A1

Republican Party in Oakland County and quickly became known for his hard work and volunteerism for national and local campaigns.

He has a bachelor's degree in political science and is broadcasting from Wayne State University.

The candidate said he wants to be a state representative to serve Farmington area residents and local officials, whom he believes need a stronger voice in Lansing.

He believes Farmington and Farmington Hills are a vital territory in Michigan. "I understand local government and how it works," he said. "I want to see more synergism between local government and Lansing. Who better to send to be the voice of the community?" he said.

Maintaining roads is also a major concern; he wants to take a proactive look at whether a better asset management system could be put in place to keep roads in shape.

"I'm a proponent of seeing what works in other states," Akouri said. The candidate said he heavily supports local government control.

He said he believes the school/property tax reform Proposal A is working to keep property taxes low and would not suggest changing it. Concerning mental health, Akouri said more effort needs to be made toward forging a partnership between public and private enterprise.

"I would like to have the state still involved, but put it in the private level," he said. He believes term limits, currently at six years in the House, should be lengthened. Akouri worked professionally as a media consultant to Gov. John Engler, Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham and as an official photographer for the Bob Dole Presidential Campaign.

KNOL
FROM PAGE A1

Knol is targeting the state rep seat because she is interested in tax cuts, getting the economy going again and improving education through more funding, more parental involvement - she proposes tax credits for people who volunteer in or donate to schools - high standards and more choice.

Because of her experience in the world of business, she said, she knows how to work under the laws created by politicians.

"Customer satisfaction is key," Knol said. "So is accountability and accessibility. Part of being accessible is being involved in the community." If elected, Knol, who is single, plans to be a familiar face in local schools, church and civic groups.

Knol supports Proposal A and keeping property taxes low. "We don't want to tax seniors out of their homes," Knol said. "We want to encourage home ownership." She believes mental health officials need to be accountable for their expenditures.

Knol supports term limits but would look at changing six years to eight years. She advocates "common sense legislation."

Knol has a Masters in Liberal Studies from Eastern Michigan University with a concentration of studies about technology in public administration, a bachelor of science from Western Michigan University, and is a certified Project Management Professional.

She is a member of the Farmington-area Jaycees, a member of the Warner Mansion committee, a City of Farmington election official, a Farmington Public Schools volunteer, volunteer for Cornerstone Schools in Detroit, member of the Michigan Republican State Committee, member of the Oakland County Republican Executive Committee, vice-president of Oakland County Women's Republican Forum, board member of the Farmington-Area Republican Club and member of the Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church. She plays the piano and violin and performed in community symphonies.

SEVER
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"Each issue needs to be looked at based on community impact," he said. "I stick up for what I believe. I am very loyal to my community and the people I represent."

Sever believes it's time for government to look at charging for some of the services it provides, as a way to raise additional funds. Government seems to be taking on more projects and should get fees for high tech services, he said. He believes education costs more here because of all the services the Farmington Public Schools system provides.

"We need to have somebody in Lansing who will assist in us getting our inflationary increase, and it has to be more than \$200. The state needs to meet its obligations." Sever would like to see a program where the community is committed to having every child get a diploma, whether in high school or trade school, and making sure every child is more confident about going into the workplace.

Hills, that is, allowing every registered voter over 60 to be eligible as an absentee voter and be on an absentee voter list. He suggests a permanent mailing list where any one who wants to be on the list could do so without an application process, to save money.

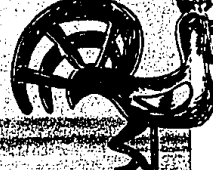
"I am always in favor of moving in a direction where we allow more people to vote with less effort, as long as we have a good system of checks and balances." Sever believes the term limit cycle is too short and would favor moving to 12 years, rather than six. "It's not allowing a sufficient turnover between maintaining experience and losing experience."

His candidacy is supported by Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates and Hills council members Jon Grant and Cheryl Oliverio, but Sever said, "I'm going after 4,000 endorsements, the people who vote." He and his wife, Linda, have three children, Jennifer, 26, Melissa, 24, and Aaron, 21. Sever is a local politician who served as Mayor of Farmington Hills in 1989 and as councilman from 1985-1997. He was president of the Michigan Jaycees in 1983 and local Citizen of the Year in 1979. Sever is also an inventor and patent holder for a baseball hitting device developed through his experience with his own kids who played baseball and softball.

COHA hosts candidate forum July 24

The Farmington Hills Council of Homeowners Associations is hosting a candidate forum from 7-9 p.m. July 24 at the Hills City Hall. Representatives from the local Farmington newspapers and a COHA member will be asking questions of the candidates running for local state representative and 47th District Court judge. The forum will be broadcast live and repeated before the August primary election on channel 8.

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