

## — THE — **ANN ARBOR NEWS**

### **It's important to vote in primary on Tuesday Many local elections will be decided**

Monday, August 07, 2006

Primary elections are typically low-turnout events in which poll workers could, if they were so inclined, take naps while waiting for voters. Not so this year - at least that's what we hope.

Many local races will be decided in the Aug. 8 primaries, as winners of the primaries will likely face no significant challengers in November. Don't be caught napping - head to the polls Tuesday and cast your vote.

Here are our endorsements for the Aug. 8 primaries and ballot initiatives.

#### **Ann Arbor Mayor and City Council**

Democratic primary: John Hieftje for mayor, John Roberts for Ward 1 City Council, Stephen Kunselman for Ward 3 City Council and Chris Easthope for Ward 5 City Council. No Republicans are challenging the winners of these races in November.

#### **Ypsilanti Mayor and City Council**

Democratic primary: Paul Schreiber for mayor, Trudy Swanson for Ward 1 City Council, Bill Nickels for Ward 2 City Council and Rod Johnson for Ward 3 City Council. No Republicans are contesting these races.

#### **U.S. House District 7**

Republican primary: Rep. Joe Schwarz for re-election to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Democratic primary: Fred Strack of Dexter for a first-term bid to Congress.

#### **State House District 53**

Democratic primary: Leigh Greden, Ann Arbor City Council member, to replace term-limited state Rep. Chris Kolb. The winner will face Republican Erik Sheagren in November.

#### **State House District 17**

Republican primary: Former state representative Randy Richardville. The winner of this primary faces Democrat Bob Schockman in November.

#### **Washtenaw County Commission**

Democratic primary: Frank Grohnert for District 1, Martha Kern-Boprie for District 2, Wesley Prater for District

4, Rolland Sizemore for District 5, Ronnie Peterson for District 6, Mandy Grewal for District 7, Barbara Levin Bergman for District 8, Leah Gunn for District 9 and Conan Smith for District 10. We are not endorsing in the District 3 Democratic primary. Republican primary: Jessica Ping Mills for District 3.

### **Ballot issues**

- Washtenaw County is shifting more costs for sheriff patrols to the municipalities, a move we endorse. We urge voters to support millages to help cover those costs. Vote yes for police/fire millages for the Chelsea Area Fire Authority and for the townships of Ann Arbor, Augusta, Bridgewater, Dexter, Northfield, Scio and Superior.
- Saline Township is proposing a tax to help pay legal defense costs in a lawsuit brought by developer Biltmore Holdings. We believe the housing project proposed by Biltmore is a strategic one that deserves support, putting denser housing close to the city of Saline. Biltmore sued the township after officials rejected a rezoning request. Providing funds for the township's legal expenses will only draw out the situation. Compromise with Biltmore is the best solution. Vote no on the millage proposal.
- A proposal to recall Pittsfield Township Supervisor Jim Walter, Treasurer Christina Lirones and Clerk Feliziana Meyer is on the ballot in Pittsfield Township. These officials have created frustrations among residents - specifically related to their handling of a proposed Wal-Mart - but their behavior has not reached the level of malfeasance that we believe is necessary to support a recall. We would urge disgruntled residents instead to find qualified candidates to run against these incumbents in 2008. Vote no on the recall proposal.

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