

Endorsements: Primary offers voters best chance to shape Michigan Legislature

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CORRECTION: *An earlier version of this story should have said that state 22nd District House candidate John Chirkun wants to shift some of the state's tax burden from residents to businesses. The story has been updated to reflect this change.*

If history is any guide, about 4 in 5 Michigan voters won't participate in the state's Aug. 5 primary election — and that's a shame, because it's the only opportunity most of them will have to shape the state Legislature that takes office Jan. 1.

Sure, there's another contest between now and then: the Nov. 4 general election, in which the candidates who survive their party primaries will go toe to toe for 110 seats in the state House and 38 in the state Senate.

But the boundaries of all those districts were redrawn after Republicans won control of the state government in 2010, with the objective of herding reliably Democratic voters into the fewest possible districts while allocating stalwart Republican voters in a way to maximize the number of safe GOP seats.

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So about four-fifths of Michigan's legislative races will be settled, for practical purposes, on Aug. 5, when voters decide which candidate will represent each of the major parties in the vast majority of legislative districts where one party enjoys a prohibitive advantage over the other in November.

Today, the Free Press reveals its primary endorsements for candidates seeking state House and Senate seats in the most competitive races in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

Among those districts, only one, the House 23rd District, seems likely to be competitive in November. Among the remaining House districts, whichever candidate wins the Republican primary in the 36th, 38th, 39th and 43rd districts will likely prevail in the November general election. Similarly, Democratic primary winners will likely coast to easy general election wins in the 1st, 6th, 10th, 22nd, 27th and 35th districts.

In the state Senate, Republicans are likely November winners in the 12th, 13th and 15th senate districts, while Democrats will be the prohibitive favorites in the 2nd, 4th, 5th and 11th.

So, how did we choose the candidates we endorse today, particularly in contests where none of those running share the views and priorities we articulate on the Free Press editorial page?

We first sought to identify those who had a clear and detailed grasp of the challenges confronting our state, especially the two our readers have consistently identified as their front-burner concerns: roads and schools.

Although many voters express a distaste for "career politicians," we tend to regard previous experience in elective office as an asset. Where candidates were otherwise closely matched, we typically gave the edge to those who have already served on county commissions, city councils or school boards.

We favored pragmatists over ideologues, preferring candidates who demonstrated an interest in addressing concrete problems (such as deteriorating infrastructure or soaring college costs) to those waging more rudimentary crusades to “shrink government,” “protect the middle class,” or “make Michigan safe for the unborn.”

When all else failed, we remembered the sage advice of Keith Davey, the late Canadian cabinet minister who counseled voters to measure a flawed incumbent not against the Almighty, but against the alternative.

WAYNE COUNTY

2nd Senate District

(Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Woods, Hamtramck, Harper Woods, Highland Park, Grosse Pointe Shores and parts of Detroit)

2012 presidential vote: Obama, 80.3%; Romney, 19.2%

BERT JOHNSON is the right choice for Michigan’s 2nd Senate District.

Johnson capably represented the district during his first term in office. He has forward-thinking ideas about regional transit and is passionate about education reform. Johnson was a sponsor of the minimum-wage increase legislation, and has worked to end Michigan’s mandatory life-without-parole sentences for juveniles.

4th Senate District

(Lincoln Park, Southgate and parts of Detroit)

2012 presidential results: Obama, 82.9%; Romney, 16.5%

The 4th Senate District is the site of a hot primary battle, as state Rep. Rashida Tlaib challenges incumbent state Sen. Virgil Smith. Both are Detroit Democrats.

Smith is a first-term senator who previously served in the House, and he’s done good work in both chambers, introducing bills to combat blight and scrapping. If elected, he has pledged to work to make Detroit a logistics hub.

But **RASHIDA TLAIB** is the best choice. A three-term House member, Tlaib is adept at delivering constituent services, and is a staunch advocate for the diverse communities she represents.

She has fought Ambassador Bridge owner Manuel (Matty) Moroun over his actions in southwest Detroit, and has been an advocate for the New International Trade Crossing. Tlaib worked with Republican House leadership to increase state funding for lead abatement — a serious need in metro Detroit — and is keenly aware of the state’s need to put more money into cities for services.

5th Senate District

(Dearborn Heights, Detroit, Garden City, Inkster and Redford Township)

2012 presidential vote: Obama, 81.4%; Romney, 17.9%

Four Democrats with legislative experience are vying for the 5th Senate District seat: former state Rep. Shanelle Jackson, Rep. David Knezek, Rep. David Nathan and Rep. Thomas Stallworth III. All are

accomplished lawmakers, but **DAVID KNEZEK** is the best choice.

At 27, Knezek is young, but he possesses an impressive depth of knowledge about major legislative issues. He's an Iraq War veteran, and has made improving veteran services a personal cause, but also has smart ideas about helping struggling cities and school districts. Knezek's House district includes the Inkster school district, recently dissolved by the Legislature. Knezek's front-row seat to that process has given him valuable insight into the process of consolidation, a must in a financially burdened state with too many government units.

Nathan and Stallworth have represented their districts well, and deserve recognition for their service, as does Jackson, who was term-limited from her House seat in 2012.

1st House District

(Detroit, Grosse Pointe, Harper Woods, St. Clair Shores)

2012 presidential vote: Obama, 76%; Romney, 23%

Brian Banks, who represents this east-side district, got the Free Press endorsement in 2012 — before admitting his eight felonies for writing bad checks.

Banks compiled a 100% voting record in his first term, but also was embroiled in a sexual harassment lawsuit filed by one of his staffers.

Voters can do better with 31-year-old **REBECCA THOMPSON**, who grew up in the East English Village neighborhood where she lives and has had local and national policy experience that will be key to addressing the district's issues.

Thompson, who is senior director for engagement at United Way of Southeast Michigan, began her career in Washington as legislative director for the United States Student Association, an advocacy group for student issues on Capitol Hill.

In Lansing, Thompson would focus on education, with a special emphasis on early-education funding and college affordability, and working with local officials to battle quality of life issues.

6th House District

(Ecorse, River Rouge and part of Detroit)

2012 presidential vote: Obama, 94.1%; Romney, 5.3%

STEPHANIE CHANG is the best choice for the sprawling and diverse 6th District.

She has a keen intellect and a comprehensive grasp of legislative and policy priorities. She's run a vigorous campaign, suggesting she is eager to form community ties and will be informed by constituents' needs and concerns. Chang's background is in social justice and community organization, which will serve the community well.

All three cities in the 6th District have come under the state's emergency manager law: Detroit has an EM and is in the midst of municipal bankruptcy; Ecorse is transitioning out of emergency management, and River Rouge is operating under a consent agreement with the state. Each has experienced population decline and the resulting hits to the tax base, and has limited options. Like most Democratic candidates for legislative seats, Chang opposes the emergency manager law on principle, but it's not enough for state lawmakers to stand on principle — the focus must be meaningful ways for the state to provide for the

health and welfare of its residents. Chang understands that every option must be explored, including ways to incentivize consolidations or shared services, and says state government must focus on residents' needs.

Chang's chief competition is Tyrone Carter, who would be the strongest contender in other races. Carter would likely be a fine lawmaker, but Chang is best qualified for the 6th District seat.

9th House District

(Parts of Dearborn and Detroit)

2012 presidential vote: Obama, 96.4%; Romney, 3.3%

The Free Press endorses incumbent **HARVEY SANTANA**, whose efforts of working with the GOP majority to better serve his constituents have paid off, and have given him momentum in the Legislature.

Santana, 42 of Detroit, brought House leadership on a tour of the city's neighborhoods, a move that helped find the funding needed to reopen the Brennan pools at Rouge Park, which he celebrated with Republican House Speaker Jase Bolger earlier this month. His ability to work across the aisle led to the opportunity for him to be part of the House special committee on Detroit's bankruptcy, where he played an influential role in the House's approval of the state's contribution to the grand bargain.

Candidate Hussein Berry, 51, of Dearborn, carries a strong record of public service, as president of the Dearborn Public Schools Board of Education and chairman of the Henry Ford College Board of Trustees. But now is not the time to trade Santana's record for that of a newcomer to the Legislature.

10th House District

(Redford Township, part of Detroit)

2012 presidential vote: Obama, 83.1%; Romney, 16.3%

BRANDON JESSUP of Redford Township leads a crowded Democratic field for this open seat that includes Marygrove College adjunct professor Leslie Love of Detroit, retired Detroit police officer Roy McCalister Jr. and Redford Township trustee Jay Johnson.

Jessup's vast knowledge of the issues and the way government works, not to mention his political savvy, stand out. After spearheading efforts to repeal the 2011 emergency manager law, Jessup is now talking compromise. He seems ready to make tough choices during Michigan's recovery, even if they are unpopular ones. He has future Democratic Party leadership written all over him.

Love, 43, is making her fourth run for the state House, and her enthusiasm is contagious. Her education background is a plus in a time of controversies over charter schools and the Common Core standards. She is deeply committed to her community and a good candidate, and we encourage her not to give up.

McCalister, 60, has run unsuccessfully for Detroit City Council twice. There is little doubt that he is running to make the state a better place, not for a paycheck, but the state needs more leaders in Lansing.

Johnson, 32, shows promise, but his age and lack of political experience hurt him in such a competitive field.

23rd House District

(Gibraltar, Trenton, Woodhaven, Brownstown, Grosse Ile and Huron townships)

2012 presidential vote: Obama, 51.6%; Romney, 47.5%

Three Democrats — David Haener of New Boston, Andy Linko of Brownstown Township and Robert Ptaszynski of Woodhaven — will vie for the Democratic spot in the August primary. The winner will face off against incumbent Republican Rep. Pat Somerville.

DAVID HAENER is the best of the three Democrats. Haener understands state government's responsibility to local government, the underlying conditions that lead many communities to multiple stints with emergency managers, and the state's obligation to intervene — although, like most Democrats, he opposes the state's emergency manager law. Haener is an information technology consultant who has worked in the private sector and with nonprofits.

OAKLAND COUNTY

11th Senate District

(Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Madison Heights, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Southfield and Royal Oak Township)

2012 presidential vote: Obama, 73.4%; Romney, 25.7%

Incumbent state Sen. Vince Gregory scrambled the eggs in this Democratic stronghold when he announced plans to run for the congressional seat being vacated by U.S. Rep. Gary Peters, then abandoned that effort just before the filing deadline to seek a second term in his current office.

In the interim, two of Michigan's hardest-working legislators, Rep. Vicki Barnett, D-Farmington Hills, and Rep. Ellen Lipton, D-Huntington Woods, launched campaigns to succeed Gregory, setting up a three-way primary in a district where the lone Republican challenger is unlikely to be competitive.

All three Democrats are seasoned lawmakers who would serve their constituents well. Gregory, 66, a retired sheriff who served 10 years as an Oakland County commissioner and two more in the state House, is a pragmatist who has collaborated effectively with Republicans to expand Medicaid eligibility and provide state support for the grand bargain to resolve Detroit's bankruptcy.

Lipton, a principled liberal who is admired on both sides of the aisle for her preparation and policy expertise, has effectively rallied opposition to the troubled statewide Education Achievement Authority, which many Republican lawmakers seek to expand. Ideally, the Legislature would find a place for both Gregory and Lipton.

But our endorsement goes to **VICKI BARNETT**, who we have long regarded as one of the most capable legislators in either party. Barnett, a tax expert who previously served as mayor of Farmington Hills and president of the Michigan Municipal League, is a savvy, hardworking public servant whose grasp of the state's most vexing challenges matches that of anyone in Lansing. Her long-term plan to fund state roads is the most thoughtful and detailed we have heard, and we anticipate that she will play an integral role in helping the state confront its looming infrastructure crisis.

12th Senate District

(Auburn Hills, Clarkston, Keego Harbor, Pontiac, Sylvan Lake and the townships of Addison, Bloomfield, Independence, Oakland, Orion, Oxford and Southfield)

2012 presidential vote: Romney, 49.8%; Obama, 49.3%

Incumbent state Sen. **JIM MARLEAU**, 67, is Republican voters' best choice. A conservative who is one of

the Senate's more constructive GOP problem-solvers, he was part of the bipartisan coalition that assured crucial state support for the so-called grand bargain to resolve Detroit's bankruptcy.

Marleau's only rival for the GOP nomination, former teacher Bob Gray, 59, is a tea party sloganeer who is wholly unprepared for legislative office.

13th Senate District

(Berkley, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Clawson, Rochester, Rochester Hills, Royal Oak and Troy)

2012 presidential results: Romney, 49.9%; Obama, 49.1%

The retirement of state Sen. John Pappa-George, R-Troy, has spawned a five-way Republican primary featuring three former state legislators.

Former state Rep. Marty Knollenberg, R-Troy, is an insurance brokerage owner who mounted an unsuccessful campaign for mayor of Troy last year. Former Rep. Andrew (Rocky) Raczkowski, R-Farmington Hills, has run unsuccessfully for the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate, and Rep. Chuck Moss, R-Birmingham, was chairman of the Michigan House Appropriations Committee until he was term-limited in 2012.

There's not much policy daylight separating these three and Ethan Baker, a 34-year-old Birmingham lawyer who is making his first bid for public office. (A fourth GOP candidate, math professor Al Gui, is mounting a minimalist campaign.)

But we believe **CHUCK MOSS** is the candidate most likely to participate constructively in the bipartisan coalitions that will be required to resolve nettlesome issues such as road funding and tax reform.

In the Democratic primary, Birmingham attorney and strategic consultant **RYAN FISHMAN** is a fresh-faced moderate who credits Gov. Rick Snyder with overdue fiscal reforms, but thinks Republicans have done too little to attract and retain the educated young people he believes are crucial to Michigan's economic recovery.

Cyndi Peltonen, 60, a former music teacher and teacher union representative who has served for 20 years on the Clawson Board of Education, is a more conventional Democrat who seems less likely to be competitive in the general election in this Republican-leaning district.

15th Senate District

(Northville, Novi, Orchard Lake, South Lyon, Walled Lake, Wixom and the townships of Commerce, Lyon, Milford, Novi, West Bloomfield and White Lake)

2012 presidential vote: Romney, 52.5%; Obama, 46.7%

Sen. **MIKE KOWALL**, R-White Lake Township, has served this western Oakland County district admirably, and his chief opposition comes from tea party advocate Matt Maddock, whose shortsighted provincialism would have had Detroit sell art rather than leverage public and philanthropic funding for the grand bargain in the bankruptcy. He also pretty much opposes any new taxes, for any reason.

Kowall is himself quite in step with the Republican majority in Lansing. He voted for right-to-work legislation and supported many of the GOP efforts to make reproductive rights more elusive for Michigan women. But he also voted for Medicaid expansion and has been instrumental in getting the grand bargain passed to shore up pensions and protect DIA artwork in Detroit's bankruptcy.

In the Democratic primary, former Walled Lake school board member **MICHAEL D. SMITH**, 33, has more practical experience than Tom Crawford, a body shop employee who is long on enthusiasm but short on policy-oriented specifics. Smith also works as deputy clerk in Clawson, which gives him experience on both the political and administrative sides of government.?

27th House District

(Berkley, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge and Royal Oak Township)

2012 presidential vote: Obama, 74.1%; Romney, 24.7%

In the 27th District Democratic primary, the Free Press' choice is **RUDY SERRA**.

This is a hotly contested open seat, in a district that encompasses seven very different cities with strong Democratic bases. Serra is best qualified to represent that diverse population.

Serra has specific, achievable legislative goals, and has prior experience in public office as a Detroit District Court judge. He also has served on the Ferndale school board and the Oakland County Commission.

Serra is a lawyer, social worker and therapist. A longtime Ferndale resident, Serra is familiar with the needs of the other 27th District communities, and has smart ideas about improving quality of life for residents, as well as the business climate. Openly gay, he's also an advocate for fairness and equality. He is open to comprehensive tax reform, understanding that funding school districts and cities may require new revenue in addition to lean spending.

35th House District

(Southfield, Lathrup Village, Southfield Township)

2012 presidential vote: Obama, 81.9%; Romney, 17.6%

Four energetic candidates seek the Democratic nomination for the seat being vacated by second-term Rep. Rudy Hobbs, who is seeking his party's nomination for a seat in Congress.

Two — Southfield City Councilman Jeremy Moss, 28, and Southfield school board member Darryl Buchanan, 59 — have previous experience in elective office. Nicole Brown, 32, is an assistant Wayne County prosecutor, and Charles Roddis, 40, is an accountant for the River Rouge school district.

In a contest in which all four candidates bring considerable intelligence, civility and relevant experience to the table, we think the best qualified is **JEREMY MOSS**, who formerly served as Hobbs' district director and has been an effective and collegial lawmaker since his 2011 election as the youngest-ever member of the Southfield City Council. Moss accurately identifies repair of the state's roads and infrastructure as a crucial economic development issue, and he is poised to be a constructive catalyst in bipartisan efforts to find a sustainable funding source for that neglected legislative priority.

37th House District

(Farmington and Farmington Hills)

2012 presidential vote: Obama, 59%; Romney, 40.2%

Perhaps no House district in Michigan boasts a stronger field of primary candidates than the 37th, where three Democrats and two Republicans are vying to replace term-limited Rep. Vicki Barnett.

In the Republican primary, Farmington Hills City Councilman **RICHARD LERNER**, 55, has a long record of public service and a broad view of Michigan's challenges that eclipses 53-year-old retailer Julie Grippo's dearth of political experience and narrower focus on small-business issues. Lerner has worked effectively with Democrats on City Council, raising hopes that he might temper the rigid partisanship that has limited the Legislature's effectiveness.

Any of the three candidates seeking the Democratic nomination would almost certainly prove to be exceptionally capable legislators. Farmington Hills Mayor Barry Brickner is a well-liked problem-solver familiar to most residents. Christine Grieg, a software specialist and former consultant, is a former Michigan PTA member of the year who currently serves as director of the Farmington Hills Education Foundation. Both would be effective representatives in Lansing.

But we think **THERESA RICH**, a global training manager for General Motors who also serves as vice president of the Oakland Schools Board of Education, brings a unique mix of expertise in taxation (she is a lawyer with a master's in tax law) and education (she was chosen by local school boards across the county to serve on the Oakland school board) that would make her a particularly valuable asset in the state Legislature.

In a district where Democratic voters can't go wrong, Rich deserves an opportunity to tackle the roads and education funding challenges voters have identified as their top priorities.

38th House District

(Northville, Novi, South Lyon, Walled Lake, Lyon Township and Novi Township)

2012 presidential vote: Romney, 53.5%; Obama, 45.6%

KATHY CRAWFORD, a small-business owner and third-term Oakland County commissioner, is well-qualified to represent constituents in this solidly Republican district, where her husband, Rep. Hugh Crawford, R-Novi, is the term-limited incumbent. Her only rival for the GOP nomination is former clergyman Dan Lauffer, 67, an ill-prepared tea party ideologue who targeted Crawford after her husband voted to expand Medicaid eligibility.

UAW official **JASPER CATANZARO** appears to be the only viable prospect for the Democratic nomination in the 38th. A second Democratic candidate, 32-year-old Jason Dorch, did not complete a candidate questionnaire or respond to repeated requests for an interview.

39th House District

(Wixom, Commerce and part of West Bloomfield)

2012 presidential vote: Romney, 51.3%; Obama, 47.8%

First-term Rep. **KLINT KESTO**, 32, leads a weak Republican field that includes tea party activist Deb O'Hagan, 56, and Alan Stephens, 56, a real estate broker and builder.

Kesto is a pro-life Republican who has generally voted with his party's legislative caucus, but he provoked the far right's ire by joining the bipartisan majority that supported Gov. Rick Snyder's proposal to expand Medicaid eligibility. He is the best alternative in a primary race where both his Republican rivals bring little more than mantras about low taxes and small government to complex challenges like road funding and public education.

SANDY COLVIN, a 51-year-old attorney and accountant, is clearly the best choice for Democratic primary voters. A former PTO president who ran unsuccessfully for the West Bloomfield school board, she

advocates a stronger state commitment to public schools.

Colvin's only rival for the Democratic nomination, Michael Saari, is a 55-year-old home inspector who appears to have invested little time or effort in developing a platform or campaigning for the job.

43rd House District

(Clarkston, Lake Angelus, Independence Township and part of Waterford)

2012 presidential vote: Romney, 54.6%; Obama, 44.2%

The imminent departure of term-limited Rep. Gail Haines has spawned one of the most-crowded primaries in Oakland County, with five Republicans and three Democrats on the ballot in a working-class district that leans Republican but has sporadically supported Democratic candidates for statewide office.

In the Republican field, Independence Township Trustee **ANDREA SCHROEDER**, 50, is the most knowledgeable and pragmatic candidate in a field that also includes Jose Aliaga, a 37-year-old high school teacher; Paul Greenwalt, a former official in the state chapter of the U.S. Taxpayers Party; Nate Knapper, a 24-year-old assistant state attorney general, and Jim Tedder, a school administrator and small-business owner.

All five Republican candidates are endorsed by Right to Life of Michigan, and none would consider raising taxes to increase funding for roads. But only Schroeder appears to have given any thought to what diverting existing revenues to roads would mean for other high-priority government functions, such as K-12 education. Schroeder's rivals for the Republican nomination also betray an anti-government animus that would likely prove to be an obstacle to collaboration with less ideological legislators in either party.

In the Democratic primary, retired Clarkston City Manager **DENNIS RITTER**, 68, displays a much keener grasp of budgetary and tax issues, and far more governing experience, than either Neil Billington, a 67-year-old GM retiree, or Robin McGregor, 55.

McGregor is a longtime Consumers Power employee and union local officer whose platform is vague except with respect to the urgency of repealing Michigan's right-to-work law.

44th House District

(Highland Township, Milford, Springfield Township, part of Waterford and White Lake Township)

2012 presidential vote: Romney, 59%; Obama, 39.8%

While still notably conservative, **LIZ FESSLER SMITH**, 33, offers the most moderate approach among the Republicans vying for this seat, currently occupied by term-limited Rep. Eileen Kowall.

An advocate for right-to-work and reluctant to raise taxes, Fessler Smith should be appealing to conservatives in the district. Yet she understands the importance of Detroit's financial recovery for the region.

Fessler-Smith's key competition is Oakland County Commissioner Jim Runestad, who has had success on the commission, but whose push to explore a separate water system for Oakland County raises concerns about his ability to work regionally.

45th House District

(Rochester, Rochester Hills and part of Oakland Township)

2012 presidential vote: Romney, 55.7%; Obama, 43.4%

Incumbent Rep. Tom McMillan is term-limited in this Republican-leaning district, leaving **MICHAEL WEBBER**, 36, the best option among the Republicans vying for the seat.

Webber offers the most legislative experience among the candidates, and seems to understand the political strategy needed to move legislation in Lansing. He is vice president of Rochester Hills City Council, serving in an at-large seat, and has been a member of the council since 2007. He also understands the legislative process, bringing nearly a decade of experience of working on the staffs of former Gov. John Engler, Rep. Rick Johnson and Sen. John Proos during his time in the House. Webber points to roads and education as his first two legislative priorities, and he appears to be in tune with the district's conservative voters, opposing the state's contribution toward the City of Detroit bankruptcy settlement.

MACOMB COUNTY

22nd House District

(Roseville and part of Warren)

2012 presidential vote: Obama, 62.65%; Romney, 36.1%

The Free Press' choice for the 22nd District seat is Roseville Mayor **JOHN CHIRKUN**. Chirkun has been mayor for six years, previously serving on City Council. He is retired from the Wayne County Sheriff's Office.

Roseville faces challenges common to communities around the state — aging infrastructure, population loss, increasing expenses and decreasing tax base. Chirkun has had a frontline view of the state's broken municipal-funding system, and is an advocate for an overhaul of that system. He also wants to re-evaluate the way we fund schools. He'd like to revise the state's revenue-sharing formula, and shift some of the state's tax burden from businesses to residents.

36th House District

(Shelby, Bruce and Washington townships)

2012 presidential vote: Romney, 60.9%; Obama, 38.2%

Macomb County's 36th District is home to one of the most fiercely fought primaries in this election cycle, as Republicans Stan Grot, clerk of Shelby Township, faces off against Washington Township attorney Peter Lucido.

This campaign has been filled with bizarre maneuvers out of old-school political playbooks, and is likely to break records for political spending on a legislative race in the county. Grot is a tea party-affiliated former chairman of the Macomb County GOP, and there's no doubt that he is firmly to the right of mainstream on most issues.

That's one reason we're endorsing **PETER LUCIDO**, whose record is not entirely satisfactory. [The Macomb Daily reported that between 1998 and 2012, Lucido skipped voting in presidential, gubernatorial and local school elections](#) — even the election that changed Macomb's form of government, creating the position of county executive.

But Lucido's more moderate views are indicative of an ability to get things done. He supports repeal of the pension tax, strengthening the trade school and community college system, improving state roads and

ensuring that seniors are treated fairly.