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Comment

Abraham Romney

PRINCIPLES LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

OPPORTUNITY SECURITY PROSPERITY

By Betsy DeVos

On Tuesday Michigan Republicans will choose our candidate for the U.S. Senate. For the first time in a generation we have an open seat, and a good chance of winning, if we offer Michigan's voters a candidate who understands their concerns, shares their hopes and inspires their confidence.

Both Spencer Abraham and Ronna Romney are conservatives, and on many issues are likely to vote similarly. So, the way I see it, this election is about character: Which candidate can you trust to stick to principles? And it's about leadership, for Michigan, for the future.

Spencer Abraham has been a principled conservative for as long as I've known him. Spencer shares Ronald Reagan's vision — the views that inspired my generation to recommit to the GOP. It is the party that believes that ordinary people make the best decisions about their own lives, and succeed when government stays out of the way.

Spencer learned this at home. His dad was an immigrant who joined the IAW and worked hard to his children would benefit from America's opportunities. He's gotten where he is by hard work, not connections. Maybe that's why former Gov. George Romney — Ronna's father-in-law — supports Spencer.

Spencer cares about politics for the same reason you do: to make sure that all of us — and our children — have the opportunities to work and prosper, to study, worship and live as we see fit. This means leaving America strong in the world and defending the Judeo-Christian values that made us what we are, but which are under attack from the liberal elite here at home.

Spencer is committed to radically changing the way Washington does business. He has the leadership qualities conservatism need for the rights ahead. He's intelligent, he understands the issues, politics and policy. He rebuilt the Michigan GOP. He's held substantive jobs in Washington and knows how to get things done. And his convictions run too deep to waffle on the tough calls — even if he's not popular on the D.C. social circuit.

How can you tell he's serious? He has proposed radical policy changes where he's rewarded. For instance, Spencer is willing to abolish the welfare system, let the states experiment with new plans and have Washington learn from Lansing — where we've made real progress.

Similarly, Spencer offered a bold, principled plan to cut the budget that included putting Washington's sacred cow, entitlements, on the table. I was amazed when Ronna responded by claiming that Spencer was willing to hurt senior citizens — a scare tactic opportunistic Democrats have used for decades. What does that say about how she'll solve problems? And do we really need another senator who'll say anything?

Abortion is another issue of principle that illustrates the difference between the two candidates. He's always been pro-life. Agree or not, you know where he stands. Is Ronna pro-life? This year, yes. But over the years she's told different things. Funny thing, her views are always the same as the person she's talking to. Of course that trick sometimes works. Think of Bill Clinton.

If this sounds harsh, I should say that I decided to run against her for the national committee woman just two years ago, when it became clear that she had little interest in Western Michigan, rarely bothered to visit outside and seemed preoccupied with the social side of a GOP committee woman. We didn't need that in a GOP committee woman.

One thing I love about Michigan voters is that they are not fooled by glitz. So it puzzles me to hear some people say Ronna is "authentic," which they think means more electable. Well, there are plenty of "enticing" blondes in Washington. But there isn't a lot of principled conservative leadership in the Senate floor.

In November, Michiganians will choose character, principle and relevant experience over this year's fashion. So I hope that everyone who cares about electing a Republican to the Senate this fall will vote for Spencer on Tuesday.

Betsy DeVos is the Republican national committee woman for Michigan and is campaign chairperson for Spencer Abraham.

By Dave Camp

This fall in Michigan we have a tremendous opportunity. We will be electing a United States senator in a vacancy left by the retirement of Don Hoaghe.

We will be faced with two candidates. One who will advocate the tired and confused policies of President Bill Clinton and the entrenched liberal Democrat establishment. Or one who will present a clear vision of opportunity and provide a voice for the hard-working men and women of Michigan, whose real concerns have been ignored by the Washington establishment.

To present this clear difference to the voters we, as Republicans, must nominate the candidate who can best articulate our message of opportunity and change. We must nominate the candidate with a well-constructed plan to take back our government from the special interests.

That is why I am supporting Ronna Romney for the United States Senate and look forward to working with her in Congress. She would be an excellent senator.

I am supporting Ronna for two key reasons. The first is her message. The core of her message is a belief in the ideals of Thomas Jefferson, who believed that government should be run by citizens who take time away from their careers to serve in government. These citizens then, after a few years, return to live under the laws they help write.

She put action behind this Jeffersonian principle when she co-chaired the successful term limits campaign in Michigan. Ronna has put forth an ambitious blueprint, "The Take Back America Plan," that attacks the problems facing us in this state and across the country. It provides a detailed and thoughtful legislative agenda. She has put forward a detailed health care reform plan, which would expand access to health insurance, control

growth of health care costs and retain maximum choice in choosing health care providers. To attack the growing cancer of crime in our country, she has issued a 10-point action plan that is based on two principles: First, you control crime by controlling criminals. Second, the certainty of severe punishment will control criminals and protect the law-abiding citizens. She supports firm "truth in sentencing," "three strikes, you're out" legislation and has proposed \$3 billion for hiring an additional 100,000 police officers over the next five years.

Ronna Romney has proposed an aggressive plan to slash the federal deficit, without capping Social Security. She has proposed spending cuts totaling \$150 billion. She supports a balanced budget amendment and the line item veto as first steps to get our financial house in order.

Her message of opportunity, security and prosperity is one shared by the vast majority of Michigan residents.

The second key reason is that Ronna Romney is the right messenger. Ronna can appeal not only to the Republican base, but to the vast majority of Michigan voters, Republicans, Democrats and Independents. On WXYZ, she heard the voice of the disaffected voter. She heard the people who are virtual prisoners in their own houses because of the fear of crime, she heard the small business owners and job providers who worry that new and more government mandates will force them to lay off employees.

Ronna Romney heard the voices of people who are frustrated because Washington no longer works for them. Ronna Romney heard the voices of people who are frustrated because Washington no longer works for them.

One of the first times I talked to Ronna I asked why she wanted to get involved in a tough, uphill fight for the U.S. Senate. She told me she had five good reasons... her five children. She said she wanted to work to see that her children had the same opportunities that she had.

I look forward to serving the voters of Michigan with Ronna Romney in the United States Senate. Dave Camp is a Republican congressman who represents the 4th Congressional District.



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N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD FAMOUS DIETERS. BY MATT GAFFEY. Puzzles Edited by Will Shortz. Includes a grid and a list of clues.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Government is not our keeper
There has always been and will always be people who are unable to care for themselves. These people have to be cared for by family, local community or government. I don't know where or when this notion was generated, but government is not responsible for us from the moment of conception until we are planted six feet under. This is one of the reasons why government has gotten so big and out of control. Our government's primary responsibility is to keep our shores safe from foreign invasion. My how far we have strayed from the original intent.
Edith J. Wimp BELLEVILLE
Ames, James Gannon
Ames to James Gannon's July 24 column: "There is a struggle under way for the soul of journalism, and many feel the battle is being lost."
Ann Rock LITVSKIA
Another Somalia?
He equidly Clinton has forgotten Somalia. In Rwanda he's following a Top Berre foreign policy: "It's do as all over again." Involvement in Rwanda puts America on the slippery slope from

Worthy choices
The Detroit News has once again distinguished itself from the rest of the pack through its endorsements in the United States Senate race. The issues are what the public wants, and the issues are what The News has given us.
Both Spencer Abraham and Joel Ferguson are worthy of the praise The News has bestowed upon them. A battle between these two principled, issue-minded leaders will surely teach us something about ourselves — as well as guarantee qualified Michigan representation in Congress.
Scott Popma ANN ARBOR
'Republican right'
Who did and made Bob Dole, Bush Limbaugh and Ollie North, "Contra" North religions? Why are Republicans now going under the title of "religious right"? What did God become a Republican?
My fellow Democrats would like answers to these questions. We don't want our anti-conservative campaign called "anti-religious." Democrats go to church, too. In the interests of keeping God non-partisan, this group should be called the "Republican right." Instead of the "religious right." The thought of Ollie North, Bush Limbaugh and Bob Dole being more religious than me makes me ill.
Ryan J. Gesund FARMINGTON HILLS

The Detroit News welcomes letters from readers. Each letter must be an original and include the writer's signature, day and evening telephone numbers and address. Address: Letters, The Detroit News, 515 Lafayette Blvd., Detroit, Mich. 48226. Fax: 313/222-6417.