



OPINION

MEMBERS OF THE TIMES HERALD EDITORIAL BOARD:
LORI DRISCOLL, general manager and advertising director
MICHAEL ECKER, editor
THOMAS D. WALKER, opinion page editor
PAT MULLINS, community member
MIKE CONNELL, emeritus member

CONTACT US • OPINION PAGE EDITOR: Thomas Walker (810) 989-6278 • FAX: (810) 989-6294 • EMAIL: tdwalker@gannett.com SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 2012 4B

OUR VIEW

Give county new leaders

The St. Clair County Board of Commissioners needs some new blood. Karl Tomion, Bernie Ellery and Tom Reilly are the best prospects.

Tomion and Paul Richards are competing for the chance to face Democrat Cheryl Keenan-Stein for the 2nd District seat (a portion of Port Huron and Burtchville, Fort Gratiot and Grant townships) in November. Tomion's knowledge and experience give him the nod.

A former city manager of Algonac, Port Huron, Midland and Dowagiac, Tomion can bring valuable ideas on cost-savings and efficiencies to county government.

In the 3rd District, Bernie Ellery has our endorsement.

Ellery badly wants to be a commissioner. He ran as a Republican against incumbent Democrat Howard Heidemann and lost in 2010. This time, Ellery is running as a Democrat for the commissioner seat, which includes most of Port Huron.

Ellery can be bombastic. He promises to hire a lawyer at his expense to investigate the convention center project he opposes. He vows to donate his commissioner pay to local charities and says he won't accept any county benefits.

More than anything, Ellery believes more can be done to cut the costs of government and promote new jobs in the county. If you sit still long enough, he'll tell you more than you might want to know. It's time voters gave him a chance to put his emphasis on public safety and manufacturing jobs to the test.

Tom Reilly is no stranger to the county board. The former commissioner led efforts to make the county's courts more secure. With reductions in court security personnel, he is running again with the promise to improve court safety.

Reilly and Jol Torrello are challenging incumbent Terry London for the 4th District (Marysville and portions of Port Huron and Kimball townships). Reilly's passion for court security and improving government efficiency makes him the best candidate to face Democrat James Pappineau in November.

Retain DeBoyer as clerk

Jay DeBoyer faces his first election as St. Clair County clerk and register of deeds. The former Clay Township supervisor was appointed to the post last year, and voters have the chance to assess his support. He has earned their support.

Cheryl Landrum of Port Huron is a capable challenger in Tuesday's primary. But DeBoyer is leading a promising effort to improve the clerk of the office's efficiency and online accessibility. He deserves the chance to see it through.

THE NATIONAL SCENE



YOUR VIEWS

Eick will serve us well in Michigan House

On Tuesday, we again will be rewarded with our greatest right as U.S. citizens — the right to vote for the candidate of our own choice, a candidate who best reflects our beliefs and personal savings. No special interest groups or political action committees have financially aided his campaign.

As a friend and supporter of Bob's for more than 20 years, I ask you to use your vote to elect Bob Eick to the 33rd District seat of the Michigan House of Representatives.

I like Eick. He is a hard worker and a public steward. He did not act with honesty and integrity — it is as simple as that. It is unfortunate that some have tried to distract voters from the issues that matter: job growth and the economy.

I trust that voters are wise enough to understand these tactics are used to monger fear and to deflect attention from a voting record.

I hope voters in the 33rd House District will value and support honesty and integrity in their next state representative.

BETHANY A. BELANGER
Port Huron, Aug. 2

Muxlow didn't keep his charter promise

Honesty and integrity are two values I hold dear. They are values by which I try to live and ones which my

husband and I have impressed upon our children.

Sadly, these values have been cast aside and replaced with mistruths in the race for the 33rd State House District.

Please allow me to set the record straight for voters who have a decision to make in Tuesday's primary. The Great Lakes Education Project is involved in this race to alert voters to the truth about Rep. Paul Muxlow.

I committed to our organization in 2010 that he supported the elimination of the charter school cap in Michigan, which would provide additional education choices for parents and students.

When this important opportunity came up for a vote in the state House, however, he did not honor that commitment.

In fact, Rep. Muxlow repeatedly has voted against the parents and students in Michigan who are searching for a better educational option. He did not act with honesty and integrity — it is as simple as that.

It is unfortunate that some have tried to distract voters from the issues that matter: job growth and the economy.

I trust that voters are wise enough to understand these tactics are used to monger fear and to deflect attention from a voting record.

I hope voters in the 33rd House District will value and support honesty and integrity in their next state representative.

BETSY DEVOS
Board Member
Great Lakes Education Project
Lansing, Aug. 1

County Right to Life supports Lauwers

The 31st District Michigan House of Representatives seat is an important one for Michigan Right to Life and all of us.

It was held by Phil Pavlov and, most

recently, by Jud Gilbert, two very strong pro-life legislators with sterling records for supporting the sanctity of life. We have indeed been fortunate to have them.

Pavlov moved on to the Michigan Senate representing the 25th District. Gilbert is term-limited and cannot run again.

We are fortunate to have another strong pro-life candidate in Dan Lauwers.

Not only has he received the Michigan Right to Life endorsement for the upcoming election (the only candidate running for this seat to do so), he and his wife, Kellie, have personal experience with this very personal issue.

They were told during the pregnancy of their second child that there was deformity and the child might not survive or may not live a "normal" life and were advised to abort the pregnancy.

Although this was shocking news for the young couple, abortion was not even an option to be considered. Dan and Kellie had faith that God would take care of them.

That faith was well-founded and well-placed. Today, Lauren Lauwers, the baby born from that pregnancy is a happy, healthy and beautiful young woman attending Michigan State University. She is determined to become a large animal veterinarian.

Dan and his wife are raising their three children in the Yale area. The couple has farm roots and a dairy background.

Dan is part-owner with his family of the Eastern Michigan Grain Elevator (formerly the Emmett Elevator). All of this has given him a work ethic not many people possess.

Dan also knows hard work and dedication from his years with the Kellogg Foundation (field rep covering the United States and West Africa) and with the National Milk Producers Federation as a lobbyist.

I have gotten to know Dan and his family over the past several months on the campaign trail, and I am pleased to call him a friend and completely convinced he is the best choice for the 31st District of the Michigan House of Representatives.

I strongly urge your support for Dan Lauwers in Tuesday's primary election.

JOSEPH G. PAVLOV
President
St. Clair County Right to Life
Port Huron, Aug. 2

MORE LETTERS, PAGE 5B

Don't mess with West Quay lot

Tuesday's election is two days away. Let's start today's column with some of your thoughts.

Talk to me:

» **Gary from the South Side of Port Huron:** "Regardless of what he says or does now, state Rep. Paul Muxlow, R-Brown City, voted to tax Michigan's pensioners. For that reason alone, I will vote against him Tuesday."

» **County Taxpayer:** "In regard to all the millages being proposed, I believe we should change the system. The people who want to support these millages should have the taxes come right out of their paychecks. The ones who don't want

TALKBACK 909-6297



West Quay Street parking lot.

» **Ken from Port Huron:** "I would like to compliment the Times Herald on your July 25 opinion, 'Strengthen election fraud laws' in response to the state House speaker and a lawmaker trying to deceive the voters. Didn't a similar thing happen just a couple, three years ago? There was a Michigan election in which the Republicans charged Democrats with dirty tricks for creating a party just to stir up conflict in the election. I don't think the people got serious fines and some other penalties. I think state House Speaker Jase Bolger and the other

gentleman deserve the same."

I think you mean the scheme some Oakland County Democrats cooked up in 2010. They created a list of 'phony' tea party candidates to siphon votes from Republicans in the 2010 election. Laws were broken in that case because candidate affidavits signatures were forged and perjury was committed.

Bolger and Roy Schmidt tried to deceive voters. But what they did wasn't against state law.

» **No Name:** "I read about the River Walk being done, cleaning up the wastewater plant. I think that's really awesome that they're cleaning that up. But the thing is, the smells from the wastewater plant. I don't enjoy going down there when the wind is up. Much to my regret, I don't notice it as much as I do. I see some people sit

down there for hours to fish. I wonder if there will ever be anything done about that if that's just the way it is."

The problem is the cost of cleaning the wastewater treatment plant's odor is pretty steep. Even if it gets to half the times, people still seem to be enjoying Port Huron's waterfront.

» **No Name:** "I was at Mass, and the mother walk him out a couple times. Halfway through Mass, the couple got up and moved to a pew in the front of the church. Everybody was appalled. I felt so sorry for this mother."

» **Gary from the Town-**

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Talkback is the newspaper's version of a radio talk show. The opinions are Tom's and those of his readers.

» **CALL TALKBACK:** The Talkback line is open 24 hours: (810) 989-6297. Toll-free: Call (800) 462-6297 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

» **Visit Talkback online:** www.timesherald.com. Click forums.

» **What are the chances of getting street signs at the Interstate 94 Water Street exit?** Some friends from out of town visited a week ago. They didn't know they were on Water Street because there were no street signs."