

Letters to the Editor

O'Brien...work for the best (excerpt) **Printed in the Kalamazoo Gazette 11/01/10**

I have known Margaret O'Brien for several years as a professional and caring Realtor. I have worked directly with her and many of her clients. Her ethics are outstanding, always looking out for the best interests of her clients.

As a member of a Portage city board, I have also seen her in action as a Portage City Council member working hard to look out for our city's best interest. Thank you for all you do, Margaret. I'll continue to stand behind you...

Timothy Bunch/Portage

O'Brien will be a caring leader in the 61st District

Margaret O'Brien is running for the 61st District state representative position. I wish I lived in the 61st District because I would vote for Margaret.

I have worked with her for more than 10 years in the real estate industry and her traits of honesty, efficiency, knowledge, organization, determination and caring will certainly be an asset in Lansing to serve our community quite well.

From working in the real estate industry, Margaret has seen the devastation of what job loss does! That's why she is so focused on finding, and promoting, job growth for our community.

So, when you go to the voting booth, remember Margaret O'Brien as the caring person she is and vote for her.

Jim Douglass/Portage

Five area candidates have pro-life endorsement

The public has been inundated with doom and gloom the past several months — the high unemployment rate, the rising deficit, economic issues like TARP, Cap and Trade, the Stimulus bill, the Health Care bill, etc. Surely, the upcoming mid-term election revolves around the economy and jobs.

I do not disagree that those are the pressing issues of the year. However, speaking as one who votes on other than pocketbook issues, I urge pro-life and pro-family voters not to forget abortion as another important issue. Over 50 million abortions have been performed since 1973, a number that staggers the imagination.

Here in the Kalamazoo area five individuals running in state or judicial races need your pro-life support. They have all been endorsed by the Right to Life of Michigan PAC. Tonya Schuitmaker is running for the 20th State Senate seat, James Bolger is the incumbent for the 63rd State House seat, Margaret O'Brien for the 61st State House seat, Jeff Fernandez for the 60th State House seat, and Judge Don Halstead for re-election as Probate Judge.

Securing pro-life majorities in both state House and Senate will help in enacting new pro-life legislation in the near future. Please vote pro-life.

Robert N. Karrer, President, Kalamazoo Right to Life

Rogowski, Stinchcomb for county office; O'Brien for state **Printed in Kalamazoo Gazette 10/28/10**

As we meet the challenges of our economy, we need individuals who will positively influence our government. Those who have strong leadership skills, a commitment to less regulation and the ability to positively communicate to our citizens on issues that affect our daily lives.

This is why I am supporting Phil Stinchcomb and Tim Rogowski for the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners. They

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will engage in straight talk about real issues. They will validate your concerns and make sure you have a voice in government. Both know the importance of garnering cooperation, facilitating collaborative efforts and engaging in partnerships and teamwork to help create an atmosphere and climate that will be conducive to businesses retaining and creating jobs in Kalamazoo County. Please vote for Stinchcomb and Rogowski on Nov. 2.

I also support Margaret O'Brien for state representative.

Larry DeShazor/Portage

Elect slate of conservatives to county, state offices Printed in Kalamazoo Gazette 10/28/10

Our most important election in Michigan history is Nov. 2. Our state can become a "come back state" by electing honest, hard-working, talented conservative people to office.
Please re-elect Congressman Fred Upton.

I urge the election of Rick Snyder as governor and Brian Calley as lieutenant governor.

To support them in the state Senate, Tonya Schuitmaker (20th District), Mike Nofs (19th District) and John Proos (21st District) will be excellent.

Exceptional support in the state House will be provided by electing Jeff Fernandez (60th District), Margaret O'Brien (61st District), Jase Bolger (63rd District), Aric Nesbitt (80th District) and Bob Genetski (88th District).

For the Kalamazoo County Commission the following will bring a diligent and hard-work ethic to the board for us: John Zull (8th District), Nasim Ansari (9th District), Phil Stinchcomb (10th District), Tim Rogowski (11th District), Brandt Iden (12th District), Deb Buchholtz (13th District), Jeff Heppler (14th District), Ann Nieuwenhuis (15th District), John Gisler (16th District), and David Maturen (17th District).

Please vote Nov. 2.

Al Heilman/chairman Kalamazoo County Republican Party

Schuitmaker, O'Brien will work to improve business climate Printed in Kalamazoo Gazette 10/28/10

If your main priority in the election on Nov. 2 is for Michigan to create an environment where businesses flourish and people have jobs, then vote Tonya Schuitmaker and Margaret O'Brien into the state Legislature. Both have been endorsed by the Michigan Chamber of Commerce whose mission statement "is to promote conditions favorable to job creation and business growth in Michigan."

If you are pro life, O'Brien and Schuitmaker share your convictions and are endorsed by Right to Life of Michigan and Citizens for Traditional Values.

If your issue is the 2nd Amendment and hunting, please note both Schuitmaker and O'Brien are endorsed by the NRA.

Ken Nunn/Portage

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Margaret O'Brien is always honest and that's what we need Printed in Kalamazoo Gazette 10/28/10

If I were a state representative, I would likely describe myself as one who would carefully evaluate all the facts in any proposal, then vote in the best interest of my constituents, regardless of opposition. Margaret O'Brien is exactly that person.

She's served two exemplary terms on the Portage City Council and routinely demonstrated her stand-up style of politics. She's a stalwart conservative — guardian of all citizen rights. She will not shy away from any question. She will answer as directly and honestly as possible, even if the answer is not what the questioner wants to hear. Direct honesty is her hallmark.

We need Margaret O'Brien for our state representative. Now is the time for sorely needed honesty and integrity in Lansing. Please vote for Margaret O'Brien to give us honest representation in the Legislature.

Juanita Bland/Portage

O'Brien will be friend to small business in Lansing Printed in Kalamazoo Gazette 10/27/10

In this election campaign, few candidates have any good ideas to take to Lansing and actually create jobs for Michigan.

In the race for the 61st District seat in the House of Representatives, Margaret O'Brien is the candidate that has the skill and knowledge in job creation to make a difference.

As a member of the Portage City Council, she has worked to make the business climate friendlier for small businesses. She has helped lower taxes and simultaneously improve service for Portage residents — not an easy thing to do in this economy. As a small business owner, she knows the problems of running a business. As a realtor, she understands the complexities of the real estate markets and the ins and outs of equally complex problems of reviving the construction industry.

In short, Margaret O'Brien is one of the all-time most qualified people to run for the 61st District seat.

Brian G. Long/Kalamazoo

Schuitmaker and O'Brien are a winning combination Printed in Kalamazoo Gazette 10/24/10

Tonya Schuitmaker and Margaret O'Brien have demonstrated several years of problem-solving abilities as elected public servants.

Identifying crucial issues, each has successfully put forth solutions to the benefit of all they represent. The massive challenges facing Michigan will receive carefully considered legislative proposals by these excellent candidates.

Join me in strengthening both the Senate and House in Lansing.

Tom Fox/Portage

Turn the tide by voting for O'Brien, Schuitmaker, Snyder Printed in Kalamazoo Gazette 10/20/10

As a local Realtor, I personally see the devastation to family finances by the decline of the housing market — 37 percent of home owners in Michigan with a mortgage are "upside down."

Unemployment in Michigan is ranked second in the nation and this is a huge contributor to this statistic. This is a direct

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result of the current administration's anti-business/pro-union stance, their insistence on "picking economic winners and losers," one-time budget fixes, "tax-and-spend" policies and continual expansion of the entitlement mentality through social engineering.

This has created huge uncertainty for current employers and those considering bringing their businesses and jobs to Michigan.

Please join me in voting for Margaret O'Brien, Tonya Schuitmaker and Rick Snyder to help stem and turn the tide of destructive actions, laws and policies over the last eight years on Nov. 2.

Tom Seelbinder/Portage