

The Detroit News

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CONGRESS SHALL MAKE
no law respecting an
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freedom of speech, or of the
press; or the right of the
people peaceably to
assemble, and to petition the
Government for a redress of
grievances.

FIRST AMENDMENT
TO THE CONSTITUTION

Detroit City Elections

The Sept. 9 Detroit primary election presents voters with a fresh opportunity to build on the city's rebirth. Three candidates are running for mayor. Fifty-six challengers are vying for nine City Council seats. Because only two candidates have filed for city clerk, no primary will be held. Our recommendations are as follows:

Socialist Workers candidate Rosa Garmendia and State Rep. Edward Vaughn are in the race to unseat first-term Mayor Dennis Archer. This field of contenders makes **Dennis Archer** an easy choice.

When Mayor Archer took office in 1994, he inherited economic stagnation and a stifling city bureaucracy. Under the mayor's leadership, the city has begun to repair its image and restore hope to its residents. Detroit is safer, and city services have improved, if only marginally.

The mayor is without peer as the city's booster. He has been a driving force behind restoring business confidence, which could produce billions of dollars in new investment.

Sustaining development and moving the city forward, however, will require strategies the mayor has thus far been reluctant to vigorously pursue: demanding accountability from city workers and reducing Detroit's tax burden. That will also require a City Council willing to consider new approaches instead of clinging to outmoded and failed policies aimed at protecting city government from competition and innovation.

Voters can choose nine contenders for City Council seats, with the top 18 vote-getters moving into the November election. Our suggested slate below includes no incumbents. We would like to see the primaries set up vigorous contests in the fall, so the issues will be fully debated and voters in the general election will have some genuine choices.

We endorse the following:

Randy M. Jackson, an insurance analyst, could be the brightest among the newcomers. He has a keen

awareness of the city's problems as well as an understanding of the policies needed to improve city services, create a low-tax, safe and clean environment where small businesses can prosper.

Scott Boman, a Wayne State University employee and substitute Detroit teacher, has sensible ideas for putting the city on a more competitive path. He would be an advocate for market-based solutions to public lighting problems, abandoned and dangerous buildings, street repair and park improvements.

Mary D. Waters is the former vice-chair of the city's Charter Revision Commission. More than any other commissioner, she voted for common sense changes to the City Charter. In the process, she gained valuable insight into the functions of city government.

Frank Hayden is a Water and Sewerage Department employee, Wayne County Community College trustee and former member of the Detroit Board of Education. If he transfers what WCCC observers say has been a thorough, reasoned and commendable performance as trustee to the council table, he can make a valuable contribution.

Toni McIlwain, president of the Ravendale Community, has acquired a national reputation as a grassroots community organizer. She would be a force for making the city as well as citizens accountable for keeping trash and debris under control and maintaining sanitation.

Larry Alcantar is an attorney who recently served as co-chair of the Detroit Empowerment Zone Coordinating Council. He, too, would push the administration to be more responsive to citizen concerns about trash pickup and police services.

Jewel Ware is a Wayne County commissioner representing District 4. Based on her record as a commissioner, it would be difficult to find a candidate more dedicated to public service and the needs of her constituents.

James Edward Means is a retired city employee and naval officer. He would fight for better city services, lower taxes and initiatives to make the city again attractive to middle-class taxpayers.



Mayor Archer