

Editorial

The Register recommends

FOURTH STATE SENATE DISTRICT:

Four years ago, in endorsing his re-election, we doubted that Napa County could have a better state senator than Jim Nielsen.

There's been nothing since then to change our opinion. In 1982, we applauded Nielsen's diligent, aggressive leadership and his willingness to listen to all constituents in the Fourth State Senate District. Since then, more often than not we've agreed with the stands the Rohnert Park Republican has taken in Sacramento. Even when our positions have differed, Jim Nielsen's tradition of service has been laudable.

For example, Nielsen wrote or co-authored measures to create an agricultural trade promotion program, increase the amount of time students spend in school, speed up the appeals process in death penalty cases and increase funding for public libraries.

He led opposition to the Peripheral Canal, developed legislation for California's "Rural Renaissance" program to develop private sector employment opportunities and wrote legislation creating the state's workfare reform package.

He wrote California's "use a knife, go to prison" law, authored several pieces of legislation dealing with toxic wastes and amended legislation on improvements to local streets and roadways to provide more than \$1.8 million to counties in the Fourth District.

Despite the additional demands of his position as the State Senate's Republican leader, Nielsen still finds time to listen to constituents about particular concerns.

The Register recommends Jim Nielsen for State Senate.

EIGHTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT:

We had high hopes for the Eighth Assembly District race back in June. Bev Hansen had emerged from a tough Republican primary to face Democrat Mary Jadicke, who nearly defeated incumbent GOP Assemblyman Don Sebastian two years ago.

Both women are intelligent and articulate and we anticipated a high level of debate. Unfortunately, the Eighth Assembly District race has been plagued by the base of this political season: negative campaigning.

That's a sorry state of affairs, particularly in a race such as this one, with two capable, competent candidates. It's at times difficult to study the qualifications for all the mud.

Our endorsement in this race goes to Bev Hansen, the Santa Rosa Republican and former administrative assistant to State Senator Jim Nielsen, R-Rohnert Park. Hansen touts her knowledge of the district, gained during four years as Nielsen's legislative assistant. Among other things, she helped coordinate efforts to win state funding for improvements to Highway 12 at the Santa Rosa fairgrounds.

Yet Hansen's experience is deeper than Sacramento politics. She served on the Dixon school board in the 1970s and helped manage some 20 campaigns for public office, including Nielsen's successful run for the State Senate in 1978.

In the community, Hansen has been a member of the Sonoma State University Community Advisory Committee, a member of the Sonoma County YMCA board of directors and a member of the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee.

Hansen describes herself as a "fiscal conservative, but...more of a moderate on some of the humanistic issues."

She worked to pass the Victims' Bill of Rights, to defeat the Peripheral Canal and to repeal California's unfair inheritance tax law. She favors continued reform in public education while increasing state funding for schools.

The Register recommends Bev Hansen for State Assembly.

NAPA COUNTY SHERIFF:

No denying these are troubled times in the Napa County Sheriff's Department. Deputy morale is an acknowledged problem and the entire department has been shaken by a grand jury investigation into alleged wrongdoing.

Both Sheriff's Capt. Ken Narlow and Napa Police Lt. Gary Simpson acknowledge the need to restore community confidence in the troubled department. Since June, both candidates have campaigned spiritedly but generally constructively in an effort to win the sheriff's job.

We recommend Ken Narlow and his 26 years of experience in the department to be Napa County's next sheriff. It will be a challenge, but we believe Narlow possesses the experience, qualifications and, just as important, the realism to get the job done.

"I think we are in dire need of strong, mature leadership," Narlow acknowledged during the June primary. "We have no direction or goals. The job is getting done, but we're not operating at maximum efficiency."

"I think we need to have a more cohesive managerial force in the Sheriff's Department. We're struggling right now. They're looking for a leader, looking for someone to say: 'Hey, this is something you can do and something you can't do.' And someone to, not necessarily tell them how to do the job but what kind of job they want done and make them accountable to get it done. That has to start at the top."

In his more than a quarter century with the Sheriff's Department, Ken Narlow has spent 15 years as a division commander, supervising all three of the department's divisions. That experience is hard to beat.

He calls for streamlining the organization, which he now describes as "top-heavy in management." His managerial emphasis is on efficiency, taking deputies away from desk jobs to increase manpower in the patrol division and in investigations. Creating a community relations officer post to handle crime prevention and public affairs and to be a liaison to schools in the county also is a priority. All sound ideas.

The Register recommends Ken Narlow as Napa County sheriff.