

# THE JACOBS CAPITOL REPORT

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FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

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## JACOBS NABS MAJOR NEWSPAPER ENDORSEMENTS

### News, Free Press, Oakland Press, Observer/Eccentric Support Senator

Four major news publications in the Metro area lent their support to Senator Jacobs' reelection bid this fall, officially endorsing her candidacy for a second term in the Michigan Senate.

According to the Observer & Eccentric newspapers, "Incumbent Sen. Gilda Jacobs, D-Huntington Woods, merits re-election to a second, and final, four-year term in the state Senate 14th District, which includes Huntington Woods, Ferndale and Pleasant Ridge."

"During her four years in the Michigan Senate, as well as her previous terms in the state Legislature — including a stint as Lansing's first female floor leader — Jacobs has proved a capable, conscientious legislator."

"Endorsements are but one important ingredient to a successful campaign," said a grateful Senator Jacobs. "While I greatly appreciate recognition in the press, I serve at the pleasure of the people in Senate District 14. The ultimate endorsement will come from them—my constituents—on November 7. That's the endorsement I'll cherish the most, and it's one I've worked hard to earn."

## EVEN NEW HOMES SHOULD BE TESTED FOR RADON

### DEQ: New Radon-resistant Techniques Not Enough

Although new home construction often includes the use of radon-resistant techniques, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is reminding new home buyers to test for radon.

"A system installed during construction can help to significantly reduce radon levels in a home," said DEQ Director Steven E. Chester. "Whether or not a new home has a passive radon vent system, it should be tested to be sure the radon levels are low."

Radon is a radioactive gas that occurs naturally in soil and rock, and it is believed to be the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. Radon can accumulate to unhealthy levels when it leaks into a home through foundation openings, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency estimates that it results in approximately 21,000 lung cancer deaths in the United States each year. Studies project that more than 600 of those lung cancers occur in Michigan.

Passive radon systems built into new homes can allow the gas to bypass the house and be vented out to the atmosphere, above the roof, where it can be quickly diluted and dispersed. Since the passive systems do not guarantee low radon levels, a test should be conducted after construction is completed and the house is considered livable. If elevated radon levels are found, the system can be easily activated with the addition of an in-line fan. Active systems are very effective at reducing radon levels.

Do-it-yourself radon test kits are available from local health departments, as well as from some home improvement centers and hardware stores. If an independent party is needed to do the test, lists of radon measurement professionals are available from the National Environmental Health Association (<http://www.radongas.org>) and the National Radon Safety Board (<http://www.nrsb.org>), or from the DEQ or your local health department.

The Michigan Residential Code requires radon-resistant construction in nine high-radon potential counties (Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Hillsdale, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lenawee, St. Joseph, and Washtenaw), and though builders in other counties are not required to use radon-resistant construction techniques, some are voluntarily adopting the process, and buyers can request the system in their new home.

“Testing is easy and inexpensive, and it will provide peace of mind to know your family is safe,” added Director Chester.

For more detailed information about radon and radon-resistant home construction, visit the DEQ Web site at [www.michigan.gov/deqradon](http://www.michigan.gov/deqradon) or call the DEQ Radon Program at 1-800-RADON GAS (1-800-723-6642) for a free packet of information. Also, for a step-by-step guide on how to build radon-resistant homes, visit the U.S. EPA Web site at [www.epa.gov/radon/images/buildradonout.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/radon/images/buildradonout.pdf).

## **MPSC TEACHES “WINTERWISE” METHODS**

### **WW Program Highlights Energy Efficiency & Cost-Savings Assistance**

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) is reminding customers that now is the time to “Be WinterWise” and increase the energy efficiency of their homes. The MPSC’s updated Be WinterWise Web site contains conservation tips, as well as information on financial assistance programs available for low-income customers.

“While natural gas bills this heating season are expected to be about \$20 less per month than last winter, it is still wise to make energy efficient improvements now—before the cold temperatures take hold,” said MPSC Chairman J. Peter Lark.

Easy energy saving tips include:

Cleaning or replacing furnace filters regularly, according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

Lowering the thermostat on your water heater. A setting of 120 degrees is comfortable for most uses.

Adding insulation to attics and walls, if needed.

Installing a programmable thermostat that automatically dials down the temperature at night and when no one is home.

Insulating gas or oil hot-water storage tank and pipes, being careful not to cover the thermostat.

To save even more money, the MPSC notes that federal tax credits for certain energy efficient improvements are available for improvements made in 2006 and 2007. Tax credits vary depending on the type of improvement, but can be substantial. More information is available on the U.S. Department of Energy's Web site: [www.doe.gov](http://www.doe.gov).

The MPSC's "Be WinterWise" campaign is designed to make people aware of higher natural gas prices, to provide information on what people can do now to lower their bills, and to provide information on the variety of financial assistance programs available to low-income utility customers. More information is available on the "Be WinterWise" Web site located at: [www.michigan.gov/bewinterwise](http://www.michigan.gov/bewinterwise).

Other conservation tips are available at [energysavers.org](http://energysavers.org) or by calling the MPSC at 1-800-292-9555.

The MPSC is an agency within the Department of Labor & Economic Growth.

## **JACOBS REPORT E-MAIL ADDRESS CHANGE**

### **Welcome to the New Report**

Your input is welcome at [jacobsreport@aol.com](mailto:jacobsreport@aol.com).

## **WIT, WISDOM, ETC . . .**

### **Quotables**

"If you're walking down the right path and you're willing to keep walking, eventually you'll make progress."

-Barack Obama

"A little inaccuracy sometimes saves tons of explanation."

-Saki

### **Quote of the Week: Albert Einstein**

"Any intelligent fool can make things bigger, more complex, and more violent. It takes a touch of genius—and a lot off courage—to move in the opposite direction."

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All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/>.

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State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

Constituents of the 14<sup>th</sup> District may contact Senator Jacobs at [sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov) or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

This newsletter is produced in single-space form in order to save paper and transmission costs.

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