

Chippewa grad running for state rep

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By Thomas Franz 

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Jeff Yaroch

MT. CLEMENS — A Richmond City Council veteran and 1988 graduate of Chippewa Valley High School will be running in this August's primary election for the 33rd District seat in the state House of Representatives.

Jeff Yaroch, a Republican, has been a member of Richmond's City Council since 1999, and he decided to run for the state House seat after colleagues advised him to give Lansing a try.

"I've been finding myself having to go to Lansing more, advocating for local government issues," Yaroch said. "What I've been hearing from my fellow elected officials is that I should probably think about running for state rep and actually going to Lansing because I'm a pragmatic person. I want to solve issues; I want to work with people and work through the problems."

Yaroch said he's paid visits to Lansing primarily for road funding and local government funding issues like revenue sharing.

Yaroch has worked as a firefighter in Richmond, and he earned his law degree in 2010 from Cooley Law School.

In Richmond, Yaroch said he has helped drop the city's tax rate by 27 percent over the past 16 years.

"I believe in being fiscally responsible while trying to keep as much money in the taxpayers' hands as possible. I'm for government accountability," Yaroch said. "When you look at Flint, for example, that was a total failure of local, state and federal government, so I'm about the government being accountable to the people. Officials at the state and federal level have forgotten government works for the people, and not the other way around, so I hope to take that voice to Lansing."

Yaroch, who has two daughters who are 2 years old and 6 months old, said he hopes to create an economic climate that will help his children succeed.

"I want to make sure they have a good education, and when they graduate, there's hopefully job opportunities in Michigan, so I want to make sure we have a climate that encourages job growth in this state, and also make sure we have a healthy climate here for business which allows us to fulfill our promises to the generations that have already built up this state," Yaroch said.

Yaroch is a member of the National Rifle Association, Michigan Farm Bureau, Alliance Club and Richmond Historical Society.

"I'm pro-life, pro-Second Amendment, but fundamentally, I'm about defending our entire Constitution," Yaroch said.

The primary election for local and state offices is scheduled for Aug. 2. The deadline to register to vote in the election is July 5.

Yaroch will square off against five other Republican candidates in the primary: Mel Koch, Colleen Carl, Julianne Cusumano, Charles Karafa and Steven Stoll.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Staff Writer Thomas Franz covers Macomb Township, Chippewa Valley Schools and the Macomb County Board of Commissioners for the Macomb Township Chronicle. He also covers sports primarily for the Shelby-Utica News. He has worked for C & G Newspapers since 2013 and attended Michigan State University.
