

How could the Daily Herald get the endorsement so wrong?

The Real Truth

Daily Herald Endorsements (verbatim)

Palatine Township Elementary School District 15 faces unenviable challenges in the next four years. Its financial condition threatened, it must work to build and protect programs while preparing for what are sure to be difficult contract negotiations with teachers and other employees. In such an environment, the board needs **demonstrated competence and firm judgment**.

It has it, with an appealing mix of talents and personalities, in the three incumbents seeking re-election, David W. Seiffert, Gerald D. Chapman and James G. Ekeberg. Both elected in 2007, Chapman and Ekeberg have weathered a turbulent first term, including **brutal economic conditions**, a **controversial failed referendum** and an often **deeply divided board**. But both also bring an important range of skills and experiences that will be especially valuable in the next term — Chapman as a former school superintendent with a long resume of community leadership, and Ekeberg as a local physician and businessman with solid insights into the needs of the district. Seiffert, a former planning commissioner whose years of experience leading youth activities include heading the District 15 Educational Foundation, is a recent board appointee, but he clearly offers fresh ideas and an independent spirit.

Running as a slate, Scott Herr, Manjula Sriram and Gerard Iannuzzelli — all accomplished professionals in their own rights — offer reasoned criticism of the board's financial position and sincere ideas for leading the district forward. But the incumbents — while they may **interpret some of the numbers differently** — **share the challengers' sense of urgency on financial matters** and many of their **best ideas on the district's educational needs**. Seiffert, Chapman and Ekeberg offer the best mix of business and school experience, commitment to community and independence, and they are endorsed.

District 15 needs "demonstrated competence and firm judgment"... District 15 had two years of balanced budgets in 2006-07 and 2007-08. Then the incumbents negotiated and approved contracts and budgets leading to a \$4 million deficit this year and \$47 million in deficits over the next five years. This is "demonstrated competence and firm judgment"?

"Brutal economic conditions"... Property taxes are very predictable. The latest forecast of revenue for the next three years is the same as the forecast given to the incumbents two years ago. District 15 families would love to have their income equally unaffected by such "brutal economic conditions."

"Controversial failed referendum"... Last October the Daily Herald said "voters shouldn't be asked to give the district a blank check on a vague plan" and should reject the \$27 million referendum. But now they endorse the incumbents who created that mess?

"Deeply divided board"... It's not surprising that the Board is deeply divided when bad decisions are being made and the current Board strives only for majority rule, not consensus.

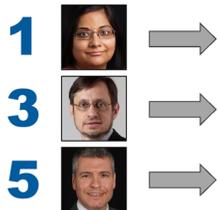
Well, at least the Daily Herald got one thing right!

The incumbents "interpret some of the numbers differently"... Not sure which numbers the DH is referring to, but the key number, not subject to interpretation, is \$47 million of deficit spending over the next five years. What specifically do the incumbents plan to do about this?

The incumbents "share the challengers' sense of urgency on financial matters"... This one, perhaps, is the most shocking statement. The incumbents knew in 2009 they were approving sizeable deficit spending. It is only now, two years later, during election season, that they are starting to talk about the deficits they caused.

The incumbents share many of the challengers' "best ideas on the district's educational needs"... Not true. The incumbents voted against a Board-level goal to strengthen the curriculum in October 2009 and have taken no significant action on many district educational needs.

VOTE



Board Member, School District 15 <i>4 Year Term, Vote For 3</i>	
101 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SRIRAM
102 <input type="checkbox"/>	EKEBERG
103 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HERR
104 <input type="checkbox"/>	CHAPMAN
105 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IANNUZZELLI
106 <input type="checkbox"/>	SEIFFERT

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The Daily Herald somehow missed the fact that change is needed on the Board.