

# LETTERS

## Keeping LMC strong will help keep our region strong

Editor,

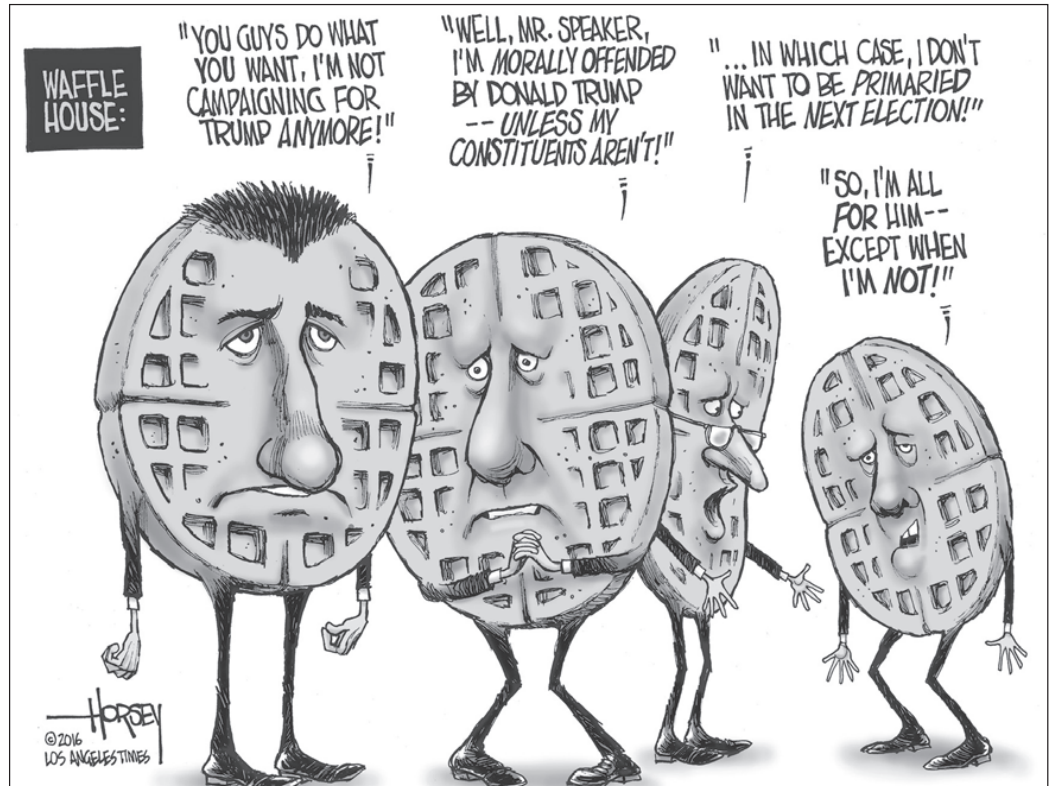
I'm often asked, "What is the most important thing a community can do to recruit a new business?" The answer is quite simple – provide a quality workforce. I'm fortunate to travel the country and share stories about Berrien County's many assets. Whether I am speaking with a real estate broker, a site location consultant or the CEO of a company considering relocation, I'm able to tout the great business climate in the state of Michigan and the superior quality of life offered in Michigan's Great Southwest.

As the lead economic development agency in Berrien County, the Cornerstone Alliance team visits hundreds of local businesses each year, and the message is the same here as it is in nearly every corner of the country – "Can you provide the talent necessary for my business to succeed?" Fortunately for all of us, Berrien County is an incredible place in which to live, work and do business. For us to excel and continue to be a world-class community, we must invest in our young people and provide them the skills necessary to maintain a quality career that provides lifelong professional and financial growth.

On Tuesday, Nov. 8, you have a choice to invest in Berrien County's future by supporting the Lake Michigan College millage. For \$2 a month (on \$100,000 market value of a home), you can ensure that LMC will be able to prepare students for careers in health sciences, advanced manufacturing, energy production and tourism, to name a few.

Many community and industry leaders have already committed their personal support to Lake Michigan College as it plans for the future. On Nov. 8, you have an opportunity to invest in the same great cause by supporting such a critical asset.

**Rob Cleveland**  
President  
Cornerstone Alliance



## LaSata is wrong about the importance of unions

Editor,

I was pleased to read Kim LaSata's quote in The HP, "I'm a Republican but I do care about the environment." Hopefully, if elected, Mrs. LaSata can help end her party's irresponsible and dangerous denial of the overwhelming scientific consensus on climate change.

In the same article, Mrs. LaSata was described as disagreeing with her opponent on the need for labor unions, particularly teachers unions such as the MEA. Mrs. LaSata expressed her concern for children and asked, "When are we going to start a childrens union?"

Children benefit when their parents earn fair wages and health insurance for their families while working reasonable and predictable hours in a safe and respectful environment. By helping to assure these conditions, all labor unions are, in fact, "childrens unions." The welfare of children is not independent of that of their working parents, a reality often ignored by anti-union politicians.

Like Kim LaSata, I have a master's degree and work very

hard as a teacher. Unlike Mrs. LaSata, my family depends on my teaching salary and benefits. Perhaps this accounts for our differing perspectives on the value of the MEA.

**Beth Houseal**  
Watervliet

## Seats is most qualified candidate in 79th race

Editor,

Please ignore that Marletta Seats is a Democrat if her party affiliation bothers you.

I wish you had been sitting with me during the recent League of Women Voters forum with our state representative candidates. Contrary to the presidential sideshow, this "debate" was civil ... and telling. Both candidates are good people but the scope and depth of Seats' experience of public service on both sides of the bridge far exceeds her opponent.

Marletta Seats has been a Berrien County commissioner for 12 years and an accomplished advocate for education, jobs and social justice. She is currently the vice chair of the Administration Committee and serves as the commission chaplain. She has also served on the Local

Emergency Planning Committee, the Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency, the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, and the Land Bank.

Seats is not a career politician. She was lead auditor at the Bosch Corporation for 32 years. She has real world knowledge of how business operates and how government and business can form productive partnerships to create more and better paying jobs.

Seats has been very active in community initiatives, including one she created to help at-risk women lead productive lives. She volunteers at local homeless shelters and food banks and mentors youth as a life coach. She has been a leader in organizing efforts to stop the epidemic of drug overdose that plagues communities across Berrien County.

Let's all vote for the most qualified candidate for state representative from the 79th District – Marletta Seats. She has the proven and public record of leadership that cuts across party lines and demographics. How refreshing and intelligent is that!

**PJ Canonie-Bubin**  
Coloma