



ABC OF MICHIGAN PAC 2010 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Office Sought (House / Senate) House Legislative District # 55 Political Party Affiliation Rep.

Candidate Name (Mr. / Ms.) Rich Olson

Candidate's Home Address 525 JUDD ROAD, SALINE, MI 48176

Name of Campaign Committee RICH OLSON - THE VOICE FOR THE PEOPLE

Campaign Committee Address SAME

Phone 734-944-0794 Fax 800-994-1346 E-Mail OLSON48176@COMCAST.NET

Website Address: http://VOICEFORTHEPEOPLE.NET

Candidate's Professional Experience see attached flyer

Candidate's Past Political Activities (Offices Held NONE HELD) REPUBLICAN CAUCUS ATTORNEY FOR WA STATE HOUSE OF REP - 3 years in the '80's, plus 1 year as Exec. Dir. of Governor's Cabinet Task Force on Water Resources

Candidate's Issues of Expertise BUSINESS, FINANCE, LAW, INSURANCE, CONSTRUCTION, EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE

On Which Committees Does The Candidate Hope To Serve? Tax Policy, Transportation, Public Employee Health Care Reform, Insurance, Health Policy, Appropriations, Banking & Financial Services

Do you accept, or have you accepted, endorsements from building trade unions?
 Yes No If yes, please state which ones. NONE RECEIVED TO DATE, BUT FRANKLY, I ACCEPT ENDORSEMENTS, BUT THAT DOES NOT BIND ME TO SUPPORT WHATEVER LEGISLATION THEY WANT. MY QUALIFICATIONS MERIT ENDORSEMENT WITHOUT SUCH GUARANTEES. ^{SUPPORT.}

POSITION ON ISSUES

Forced Union Project Labor Agreements

A forced union agreement or project labor agreement is a contract that forces all construction companies to sign a contract with a union in order to work on that job. As such, non-union construction firms and their employees who represent 75 percent of Michigan's construction workforce are generally excluded from work opportunities solely on the basis of union affiliation.

ABC of Michigan is strongly opposed to forced union agreements on any construction project funded in whole or in part with state dollars because they create a special-interest monopoly and violate free enterprise principles of full, fair and open competition. Union-only requirements not only drive up the cost of public construction by reducing open competition, but also exclude working men and women who choose to not belong to a union from working on projects paid for by their own tax dollars.

ABC of Michigan strongly believes that all workers and contractors, *union and non-union alike*, are entitled to equal opportunity and supports legislation that will neither *prohibit nor require* agreements with union organizations for state funded construction projects. This will ensure that the state does not discriminate against any business or worker on the basis of union affiliation. Michigan taxpayers will also benefit from having public construction that is completed by the lowest qualified bidder to ensure greater accountability of public funds. Please indicate your position on this priority issue.

I will support legislation stating that any construction project funded in whole or in part with state funds shall neither prohibit nor require union agreements.

I will oppose legislation stating that any construction project funded in whole or in part with state funds shall neither prohibit nor require union agreements.

I am not sure.

Would you cosponsor legislation stating that any construction project funded in whole or in part with state funds shall neither prohibit nor require union agreements?

Yes

No

I am not sure.

Comments: THIS IS A CONCEPT I AM IN 100% AGREEMENT WITH
YOUR POSITION!!

Regulatory Reform

ABC of Michigan believes that state government often places an undue burden on Michigan-based employers by adopting unfounded regulations not seen in any other state or at the federal level. Such requirements increase the cost of doing business in this state and have an adverse affect on job creation. This anti-business atmosphere ultimately drives companies out of Michigan or forces others to permanently close their doors. In many cases, it simply eliminates Michigan as a contender for businesses locating in the state. To help alleviate this concern ABC supports a new requirement that the state of Michigan shall not promulgate a rule that is stricter than existing federal standards. This will ensure that Michigan is not at a competitive disadvantage with other states, while also ensuring a more stable and understandable regulatory climate for all industry stakeholders. Please indicate your position on this issue.

I will support efforts to prohibit the State of Michigan from promulgating rules that are stricter than federal standards.

I will oppose efforts to prohibit the State of Michigan from promulgating rules that are stricter than federal standards.

Comments: _____

Carpenter Licensure:

ABC of Michigan believes that carpenter licensure would not make carpentry more professional, it would only regulate it further. Since construction is already one of the most regulated industries in Michigan, ABC strongly opposes carpenter licensure legislation because of existing provisions that are already in place that make it unnecessary and redundant. According to the Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry services as recently as 2002, "*licensure of carpenters is not necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. The public's safety in buildings is insured by the state's building codes.*" Indeed, the state building code already protects consumers and the criminal code already prohibits illegal business practices. As such, there is nothing to be gained by carpenter licensure, while there is much that would be lost. It results in more burdensome red tape that will raise the cost of construction without benefiting a single taxpayer, business, project owner or the state. Moreover, prior efforts have even attempted to alter the definition of a carpenter to include other trades that do not perform. Lastly, a new licensing requirement would amount to another ill-conceived form of taxation for carpenters in Michigan placing them at a disadvantage with carpenters elsewhere. Please indicate your position on this important issue.

I will oppose carpenter licensure.

I will support carpenter licensure.

I am not sure.

Comments: _____

Prevailing Wage Repeal

Unlike 42 other states that either have no prevailing wage mandate or that at least attempt to calculate prevailing wages based on an accurate sampling of all construction wages, Michigan's so-called prevailing wage law dictates that wages and other benefits on all taxpayer-supported construction projects must be determined exclusively by union collective bargaining agreements. The fact that the wage is not even "prevailing" results in a special interest driven wage monopoly that runs contrary to the best interests of Michigan citizens, communities and overall construction employment. The average free market, competitive construction wage in Michigan is over \$20 per hour. In many trades it is much higher. These are appealing wages that are already higher than most in the state. Yet, in addition to existing minimum wage laws, powerful special interests have fought to also mandate a prevailing for the construction industry, even though there is no such wage requirement for other industries.

Numerous peer-reviewed academic and governmental studies have demonstrated that when government requires that a state prevailing wage be paid on publicly funded construction projects, that wage is artificially inflated by as much as 40 to 60 percent. This results in an approximate 10 percent increase in construction costs, without any additional gain or return on investment. Such arbitrary increases in costs makes construction uncompetitive, decreases overall construction employment and puts an undue strain on contractors as well as state and municipal budgets. ABC of Michigan has actively pursued repeals of prevailing wage in all sectors where state funds are used. Examples include school construction, road construction, local government construction and higher education construction. Eliminating uncompetitive construction industry prevailing wages would not only result in construction being treated equally with other industries, but would ensure that public construction be bid at competitive private sector market prices rather than artificially high government-mandated prices.

Many states have chosen not to have a state prevailing wage law because its inflated construction costs mean that limited state budgets cannot meet the priorities of taxpayers by siphoning valuable funds that could otherwise be better spent on schools, hospitals, prisons, roads and other vital projects. Please indicate your position on this issue.

I will support a repeal of Michigan's Prevailing Wage law.

I will oppose a repeal of Michigan's Prevailing Wage law.

I am not sure.

Would you cosponsor legislation repealing Michigan's Prevailing Wage law?

Yes

No

I am not sure.

Comments: As a school business manager for 7 years, I witnessed first hand the added costs to school construction costs.

Providing Local School Districts a Choice on Prevailing Wage for School Construction

In some states, while there has is no full repeal of prevailing wage, there is a prevailing wage exemption for school construction that provides school districts a local choice of whether to require prevailing wages. After legislation was passed in Ohio in 1997 that exempted school construction from prevailing wage requirements, a study by the non-partisan Ohio School Facilities Commission found an average 3-5% savings to taxpayers on school construction projects completed without prevailing wage requirements. In Michigan, savings would be at least \$150 Million a year on school construction. ABC supports legislation allowing school districts to decide for themselves whether to use prevailing wages instead of the state mandating it. This will provide districts the ability to prioritize their needs inside the classroom and make it easier to renovate and build quality schools. Would you support legislation allowing school districts to decide whether to use prevailing wages instead of the state mandating it?

I will support allowing local school districts to decide whether to use prevailing wages.

I will oppose allowing local school districts to decide whether to use prevailing wages.

I am not sure.

Would you cosponsor legislation allowing school districts to decide whether to use prevailing wages instead of the state mandating it?

Yes

No

I am not sure.

Comments: _____

Right to Work

"Right to work" laws, if passed at the state level, prohibit forced union affiliation as a condition of employment for a particular job. It empowers the individual to make a decision on whether or not to join a labor union instead of being forced to pay union dues and/or fees as a condition of employment. Currently, 21 states have right to work laws. Please indicate your position on this important issue.

I will support efforts to make Michigan a Right to Work state.

I will oppose efforts to make Michigan a Right to Work state.

I am not sure.

Comments: If the votes are NOT THERE FOR FULL REPEAL, I WOULD
SUPPORT THE CONCEPT OF RIGHT TO WORK "ENTERPRISE ZONES" BY
LOCAL CHOICE.

Repealing the Michigan Business Tax Surcharge

Builders and contractors in Michigan are often experiencing a significant increase in their overall tax liability compared to the old Single Business Tax. For some firms this increase is as high as 500%. This results in an increase in the cost of construction and it hits struggling construction businesses who are already affected by the weak Michigan economy. Without a repeal of the MBT surcharge many contractors will have to lay off employees or move much of their business operation to another state. ABC urges swift repeal of this surcharge.

Please indicate your position on this important issue. Check all that apply:

I will support a repeal of the MBT surcharge.

I will oppose a repeal of the MBT surcharge.

I am not sure.

Comments: I SUPPORT REPEAL OF THE ENTIRE MBT. AS PART OF IMPROVING THE BUSINESS CLIMATE TO MAKE ALL BUSINESSES MORE COMPETITIVE & CREATE JOBS.

Protecting the Rights of Employees

Currently, the preferred method for determining whether or not employees want a union to represent them is a secret ballot election regulated and supervised by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). The NLRB provides detailed procedures that ensure a fair election, free of fraud, where employees may cast their vote confidentially without peer pressure or coercion from unions or employers. Yet, union leadership now claims to find secret ballot elections an impediment to unionization, preferring "card check" elections, where employees are forced to cast their vote in front of union organizers and fellow employees who support unionization instead of through the secret ballot method. ABC strongly opposes any effort to overturn the established NLRB procedures that guarantee a fair union election through secret ballot voting.

I will oppose legislation that restricts the right of employees to a secret ballot election.

I will support legislation that restricts the right of employees to a secret ballot election.

I will cosponsor legislation to prohibit "card check" in Michigan.

I am not sure.

Comments: _____

This information accurately reflects the candidate's position on the issues. I recognize that the material contained in this questionnaire may be used in ABC voter education and get out the vote materials.

Signature of Candidate: Richard Olson

Date: 6/8/10

Rick Olson – Ready to Serve as Your Voice for Jobs

Have they heard us yet?

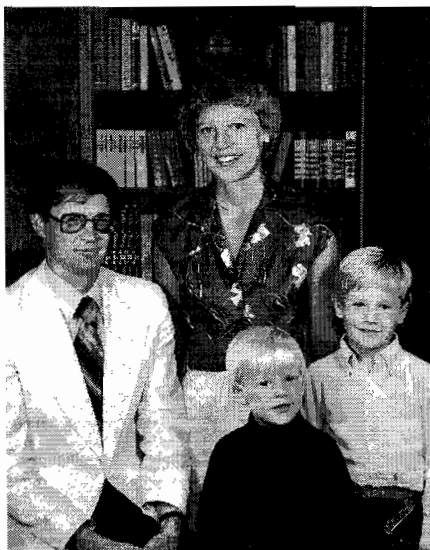
Are you one of the many people frustrated with the bank bailouts, huge budget deficits and government takeovers in Washington AND the budget gridlock and lack of leadership in Lansing? Are you tired of the partisan political games?

I will give us a voice!

I know how to get things done.

We need experienced, knowledgeable people in the legislature to meet our serious and complex challenges. With term limits, we don't have the luxury of electing someone who is going to have to learn on the job. I have worked with a legislature. And, with a lifetime of financial, legal, both public and private business management and leadership experience,

I can hit the ground running.



(The way we were – 27 years ago)

Michigan Natives, met at Michigan State

Married, 39 years to Linda

Father to Brad and Kirk (ages 34 and 31)

We must improve the state's business climate to create jobs.

Innovation and entrepreneurship in small businesses will create jobs and grow our way out of the economic mess our state is in. Ranked 48th out of 50 is NOT acceptable!

Experienced and Knowledgeable

Michigan State University Graduate, 1970
Stanford Law School Graduate, 1978
Attorney, Washington State Legislature -1981-1983
Attorney, WA Governor's Office – 1983-84
Washington State Bar Association - 1978-97
Passed Michigan Bar Exam, 2009
Certified Financial Planner - 1984-1989
Private Business Manager – 15 Years
Public School Business Manager – 7 Years
Corn Grower Cooperative President
Agricultural Economist – 1970-1975



Rick
OLSON
for State Representative

Republican Candidate, 55th District

<http://voiceforthepeople.net>

<http://rickolson.blogspot.com>

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