

GREAT LAKES



EDUCATION
PROJECT

GREAT LAKES EDUCATION PROJECT

LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE 2010

NAME: Rich Olson

STREET ADDRESS: 525 Judd Road

CITY: Saline ZIP: 48176

TELEPHONE: (734) 944-0794 FAX: (800) 794-1346

E-MAIL: olson48176@comcast.net WEBSITE: (www) VOICEFORTHEPEOPLE.NET

OFFICE SOUGHT: State Representative

DISTRICT: 55 PARTY: Republican

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Rich Olson - The Voice for the People

CAMPAIGN MANAGER/CONTACT: Dave Szewczyk, Cam. Mgr.

1. Do you believe Michigan needs to improve and transform its K-12 education system in order to compete in the global market?

Yes No

Other: We all know we need to do better to prepare our students to compete in a global economy. It is also important for our state's competitiveness in attracting businesses

2. Do you believe that the key to improving and transforming Michigan's K-12 education system requires raising taxes or increasing government spending?

Yes No

Other: No amount of money will be enough until the power of the MEA is curtailed

3. Do you believe improvements and transformations in Michigan's K-12 education system require additional state regulation or intervention?

Yes No

Other: Local school board have not and will not be able to negotiate successfully with the MEA & Detroit's teacher union

4. Do you believe parents deserve more choices than they currently have when it comes to providing a high quality education for their children?

Yes No

Including options, such as:

Charter schools Support Oppose

Cross-district choices Support Oppose

Tuition tax-credits Support Oppose NOT SURE

Other: Home schooling where parent is sufficiently qualified AND the education actually takes place.

We have seen situations where the children's education has been totally neglected under the name of "home schooling". I wonder if parental choice should go that far.

(Continued)

5. Which of the following reforms do you support to improve education in Michigan?

Raising academic student testing standards

Support Oppose

Providing easy-to-understand district and building level performance information to parents and taxpayers

Support Oppose

Providing easy-to-understand individual classroom level performance information to parents and taxpayers

Support Oppose

Financially rewarding teachers who raise the academic achievement of their students

Merit pay is a good idea, but difficult in practice

Support Oppose

Ensuring more education funding gets to the classroom ?

in terms of higher teacher wages and benefits? Define "classroom".

Support Oppose

Other reforms or improvements you support (please be specific)?

Minimize non-instructional costs through some consolidation, some shared services and more privatization.
Control school employee wages and benefit costs so that the \$ to the classroom are in terms of more inputs, not just higher costs.

6. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

"In Michigan today we have a two-tiered system of education. People with resources have choices in that they can move to a better-performing public school district, or they can pay to place their children in a non-public school. But people without resources often have few or no choices."

Agree Disagree

7. Do you support requiring teachers to demonstrate proficiency in their academic subject areas through a regular testing program and ensuring proper academic training for their areas of instruction?

Yes No

Other:

The greatest issue is the Art or Craft of classroom management which is NOT teachable and highly individualized. It can be learned through practice and trial under fire, helped by good mentoring and/or supervision.

We need to be able to get rid of incompetent teacher more easily than currently possible under Tenure Laws.

(Continued)

8. Currently, Michigan law limits, or 'caps,' the number of public charter schools authorized by state universities to 150. There are over 100,000 students in public charter schools. Approximately 10,000 students are on waiting lists hoping to attend these schools. To help students and families who would like to attend a public charter school, would you support or oppose (please check all that apply):

Raising the limit or 'cap' on the number of public charter schools authorized by state universities

Support Oppose

Eliminating the limit or cap on the number of public charter schools authorized by state universities

?
 Support Oppose

Other: As a former school business manager, I worry about those students left behind both parents who care less about their child's education and the district left behind with even fewer resources with which to educate them.

9. In Michigan, public charter schools are required to adhere to essentially the same regulations as conventional public schools. However, they also operate under the terms of performance-based contracts, and are overseen by public education agencies, known as 'authorizers,' who hold them accountable to the terms of their contract and all other applicable laws. Knowing this, do you believe charter schools are subject to (please check one):

- Too much regulation and oversight
- The right amount of regulation and oversight
- Too little regulation and oversight

10. Currently, a student attending a public charter school receives an average of \$1,800 less than a student attending a conventional public school. Do you support ensuring all students, within the same district, regardless of the type of public school they attend, receive equal funding for their education?

Yes

No

They have different cost structures

11. President Barack Obama advocates substantial public education reforms in all states. These include expanding school choice, closing the lowest-performing 5% of public schools, using student testing data to improve achievement, paying high performance teachers based upon merit, and raising academic standards. Do you support President Obama's reform agenda (please check all that apply):

- Expanding school choice
- Closing the lowest-performing 5% of public schools
- Using student testing data to improve achievement
- Paying high performing teachers based upon merit
- Raising academic standards

hard to do marginally effective.

?

?

Raising standards for Detroit Public Schools would be useless when they can't even reach the current standards

when used as a diagnostic tool, can be quite helpful

12. Do you support smaller "21st Century High Schools" that include:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Parental choice | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose |
| Smaller class sizes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose |
| Rigorous & relevant curriculum | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose |
| Strong family-school relationships | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose |
| Character development | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose |
| Site-based management | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose |

But they all come at a cost. We all want to go to heaven, but do you want to die?

13. In 1994, Michigan voters adopted "Proposal A." This constitutional amendment lowered property taxes and overhauled Michigan's school finance system by having state educational dollars follow a student to any school they enroll in, rather than automatically going to the conventional school district in which the student resides. Do you support "Proposal A's" provision to fund students rather than schools?

I don't like that some students are worth more than others, however, as in unequal unequal student foundation grants

Yes No

14. Recent newspaper reports show Michigan has a "dropout crisis" and some conventional public school districts are graduating less than 50% of their students. Which of the following approaches do you support to address these issues (please check all that apply)?

Expand educational choice in ^{some} all parts of the state

Support Oppose

Increase educational choice in any conventional public school district graduating less than 50% of students

Support Oppose

Enact merit pay for teachers in a conventional public school district graduating less than 50% of students ? *How measured? It sounds great.*

Support Oppose

Provide additional before-and-after school programs in any conventional public school district graduating less than 50% of students *MANY students need more time*

Support Oppose

Restructure schools that chronically fail by replacing school personnel and aggressively redesigning the school's academic program

Support Oppose

Close schools that chronically fail by graduating less than 50% and/or having low academic performance

Support Oppose

*The idea, but do you close all DPS?
NOT PRACTICAL*

(Continued)

15. Traditional public schools are governed by elected school boards and often seek increased taxes from voters through placing a millage on the ballot. Which do you believe about the election process as it pertains to the state of Michigan (not necessarily your district):

Voting needs to be more convenient even if it creates more options for fraud

Support Oppose

Protecting the vote against fraud is a top priority

Support Oppose

No changes to the election process at present

Support Oppose

*SINCE MOST CHARGES
BEING PROPOSED WOULD
LOOSEN REQUIREMENTS*

16. In Michigan, after a few years of instructing, teachers receive tenure, which has been characterized as a contract for life. Tenure, along with teacher contracts, often makes it difficult to move poor performing teachers out of the classroom or reward high performing teachers. Do you support or oppose reforming Michigan's teacher tenure system?

Support Oppose

17. Have you ever been convicted of a felony or placed on diversions for a felony?

Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

18. If you have children, what K-12 schools do/did they attend?

All public schools in WA, MI & MN

19. In your campaign, how many hours per week do you plan direct candidate door-to-door contact? And how many months do you expect to maintain this average, prior to the August Primary?

Weekly candidate door-to-door:

- 1-3 hours per wk 4-6 hours per wk 7-9 hours per wk
 10-13 hours per wk 14-16 hours per wk 17-20 hours per wk
 21-23 hours per wk 24-26 hours per wk 27-30 hours per wk
 31+ hours per wk

Monthly duration of candidate door-to-door program:

- 1-3 months 4-6 months 7-9 months

Seeing as we have less than 3 months to go

I have doorbelled Labor Day - Christmas, 2009

and since March 15

(Continued)

21. In planning your campaign's budget, how much do you expect to raise prior to the August Primary Election?

Individual donations	\$	<u>51,000</u>
Political Action Committee donations	\$	<u>MINIMAL</u>
Candidate donation or loan(s)	\$	<u>35-40,000</u>
Total	\$	<u>51,000</u>

23. In planning your campaign budget, how much do you expect to raise during the time between the August Primary Election and November General Election?

Individual donations	\$	<u> </u>	NOT YET BUDGETED
Political Action Committee donations	\$	<u> </u>	OR PLANNED
Political Party or Caucus donations	\$	<u> </u>	
Candidate donation or loan(s)	\$	<u> </u>	
Total	\$	<u>150,000 - 250,000</u>	

25. In planning your campaign, do you expect to earn the endorsement or support of any of the following organizations (please check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACLU | <input type="checkbox"/> AFL-CIO |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Associated Builders & Contractors | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citizens for Traditional Values |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deputy Sheriffs Association | <input type="checkbox"/> EMILY's List |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FOP | ? <input type="checkbox"/> MI Assoc. of School Administrators |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan Association of Realtors | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan Chamber of Commerce |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan Education Association | ? <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan Environmental Council |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan Farm Bureau | <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan Federation of Teachers |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MMA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan Restaurant Association |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan Right to Life | <input type="checkbox"/> NAACP |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Rifle Association | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NFIB |
| <input type="checkbox"/> POAM | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SBAM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SEIU | ? <input type="checkbox"/> Sierra Club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> UAW | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Willow Run Tea Party Caucus</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Conservative Caucus of Monroe</u> |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Patriots of S & MI</u> |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Ann Arbor Teen Party</u> |

(Continued)

CANDIDATE'S SIGNATURE:

Richard Olson

DATE: 5-23-10

Please attach a biography or material describing your education, professional and personal background.

PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE BY **DECEMBER 31, 2009**
TO:

Great Lakes Education Project (GLEP)
P.O. Box 27503
Lansing, MI 48909-7503
Fax: 517-579-0282
E-mail: 2010@glep.org

Please note, candidates will not be considered for endorsement or support without a completed questionnaire received by GLEP.

GLEP maintains responses as a part of its internal campaign evaluation process. However, GLEP reserves the right to share responses with its members and the public.

After evaluating questionnaire responses, GLEP will communicate further with candidates and campaigns of interest. Thank you for your consideration in completing and returning the 2010 candidate questionnaire.

###