

HERITAGE NEWSPAPERS CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

CANDIDATE NAME: Rick Olson

ELECTED OFFICE SOUGHT: State Representative, District 55

POLITICAL AFFILIATION: Republican

CITY, VILLAGE OR TOWNSHIP OF RESIDENCE: York Township,
Washtenaw County

OCCUPATION: Semi-retired. My career has primarily been as a business manager, with much of that in agriculture, but also 7 years as a Michigan public school business manager. What makes me especially ready to serve is my working for the Washington State Legislature for 3 sessions in the 1980's, as well as a year as the Executive Director of the Governor's Cabinet Task Force on Water Resources. I can hit the ground running in Lansing in January.

EDUCATION:

Michigan State Univ., B.S. in Agricultural Economics, 1970

Univ. of California, Davis, M.S. in Agricultural Economics, 1972

Stanford Law School, Law, Juris Doctor, 1978

College for Financial Planning, Certified Financial Planner, 1984

MSU, Ph.D. program in Education Administration, 38 credits, 2000-2006

ANY PREVIOUS ELECTED OFFICE(S): None

CURRENT PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE: Milan Moving Forward, Washtenaw County Republican Executive Committee, Co-editor of monthly Washtenaw Republican Informer, moderator for the National Issues Forum (including three forums moderated at the Gerald Ford Presidential Library at U. of M.)

KEY ISSUES (please identify your top two):

1. Restarting the Michigan economy by creating a better business climate so all businesses have a better chance to succeed and create jobs.

2. Controlling state spending to avoid the need for tax increases yet maintain essential services.

SUMMARY (a sentence or two) OF YOUR PROPOSAL(S) FOR ADDRESSING EACH OF THOSE ISSUES:

1. Unfortunately, there is no one “silver bullet”, but the comprehensive set of proposals made by the Business Leaders for Michigan in their “Michigan Turnaround Plan” is designed to make Michigan a “Top Ten” state again, with the first item being a significant reduction or elimination of the Michigan Business Tax. Maintaining our transportation infrastructure is another critical need to remain competitive.

2. We must get the wage and benefit costs for public sector employees under control and more in line with those received by comparably talented private sector employees. Now that we are ranked 37th among the states in terms of per capita income, we cannot afford the present levels without job-killing tax increases.

WEB SITE: <http://voiceforthepeople.net/>

PERSONAL

- Marital status (if married, for how many years?): Married Linda on September 19, 1970 in the Horticulture Gardens on the MSU campus, so this September will be our 40th wedding anniversary
- Number and ages of children: Two boys, Brad, age 34, a registered nurse in the ER at the U of M Hospital, and Kirk, age 31, a student at the University of Minnesota in electrical engineering after 10 years in the U.S. Navy as an nuclear electrician and instructor at the Navy’s nuclear prototype school in Charleston, South Carolina
- Last book read? “The Constitution in Exile”, by Judge Andrew P. Napolitano. From Napolitano’s books and “The Politically Incorrect Guide to the Constitution”, I learned more about our Founding Fathers’ intent in writing the U.S. Constitution than I learned in Constitutional Law class at Stanford Law School or in successfully studying for the Michigan Bar Exam in 2009.

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Phone number: 734-944-0794, cell 734-646-5286

Phone number you can be reached on election night: try the cell

E-mail address: olson48176@comcast.net