

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MICHIGAN CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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### **Question 1: Please provide biographical information including your qualifications for the office you are seeking and the reasons you are running.**

My experience in business management, finance, law and legislative support makes me ready to serve as your voice to create jobs.

My focus is improving the business climate by reducing business taxes, lowering regulation and controlling spending. I have been a business manager most of my life. In fact, I went to Stanford Law School to be a better business manager. I worked for the Washington State Legislature for three years and served as an attorney in the Governor's Office before returning to business. We will need experienced and knowledgeable people like me elected who can hit the ground running.

### **Question 2: What are your state budget spending priorities and how would you adjust revenue and expenses to support those priorities?**

We must first control spending by bringing public employee wage and benefit levels more into line with the private sector so that we can avoid tax increases while maintaining essential services. Corrections costs must be reduced. Then K-16 education, the social safety net and public safety can be adequately funded. Our transportation infrastructure must be maintained to minimize long-term public and private transportation costs. A revenue neutral swap of extension of sales tax to services with a drop in sales tax on products and an elimination of the Michigan Business Tax would make Michigan more competitive and create jobs.

### **Question 3: What are your top two other priorities, why did you select them, and what actions would you take regarding them?**

Agriculture, our 2<sup>nd</sup> largest industry in the state, must be protected and supported by warding off unnecessary and burdensome regulation. Our productive farmland will become increasingly important, as the arid west loses irrigated farm lands.

Improving health and reducing health care costs through making people both more knowledgeable and more accountable for their own lifestyles and their resultant health is necessary to avoid bankrupting us. Health education will help, but financial incentives through consumer driven health care plans are more apt to be successful. Access to affordable health care is essential, but it must somehow be earned, except in emergencies.