



**MICHIGAN
CHAMBER
OF
COMMERCE**

**Michigan Chamber of Commerce
State Legislative Candidate Questionnaire
For the 2010 Election Cycle**

Congratulations on your decision to seek state legislative office for the great state of Michigan. Your willingness to undertake public service during this time of great challenge is appreciated. The Michigan Chamber of Commerce employs a member-driven, policy-focused approach to both policy formation and political action. In 2010, we will play an active role in shaping Michigan's future by helping to elect pro-jobs/pro-growth candidates who will represent the best interests of job providers and employees. We hope that you will take a few moments to complete the attached candidate questionnaire and share with us your vision for Michigan. Please respond to each question carefully because we will view your answers as a clear indication of where you stand on key issues that are important to our members. To be considered for an endorsement by the Michigan Chamber of Commerce you must complete and return this candidate questionnaire by **Tuesday, June 1, 2010** to: Jim Holcomb, Vice President, Business Advocacy and Associate General Counsel, Michigan Chamber of Commerce, 600 South Walnut, Lansing, Michigan 48933, Fax (517) 371-7224.

Candidate signature: Richard Olson Date: 5/23/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Candidate Name: Rick Olson

Address: 525 Judd Road, Saline, MI 48176

Phone: (734) 944-0794 Fax: (800) 794-1346

Email: OLSON48176@COMCAST.NET

District Number 55

Party Affiliation Republican

1. Have you ever owned or managed a business? If yes, please explain.

Yes No

Owned: Certified Financial Planner 1984-89, Internet Business Center 2007-1998-2000, Peak Effectiveness, com 2007-current
Managed - President of VALADCO 1994-96, Secy/Mgr. MACMA Cherry Div.

2. Have you sought elective office before? If so, please describe the office, the level and the outcome.

Yes No

ran for Douglas County (WA) Prosecuting Attorney vs. incumbent Republican in 1982. Narrowly lost
Sought appointment to State Rep in WA. Dist. 12 in about 1984. Unsuccessful.

3. Have you been involved in a campaign on behalf of another candidate or cause? If so, please identify the candidate or cause and describe your role.

Yes No

Managed multiple campaigns for State Rep. in Washington State.
on concert with Rep. caucuses & otherwise.

Began campaign experience by organizing a 3 county Area for Rep. S. Morrison in 1980, where we beat an incumbent D. Congressman

4. Do you have any previous local or state legislative experience? If yes, please describe.

Yes No

Not as an elected official, but as an attorney for the Republican caucuses in the WA State House of Representatives for 3 sessions

5. What amount of money have you budgeted for this campaign and how much have you raised to date?
Budget through Primary = \$51,000, General election not budgeted yet
Raised to date: 25,967 contributions + loans
-
6. Have you contracted with a firm or individual to manage your campaign? If so, please provide the name and address of the firm/individual. If not, what are your plans regarding management of the campaign?
 Yes No
Began with Dennis Gryson, switched to David
Szwedzky (a 5 year staffer for Sen Gaffney)
-
7. Do you accept PAC funds?
 Yes No
-
8. Is there any organization or group from which you would not accept PAC funds or an endorsement?
 Yes No
MEA, SEIU as our positions are diametrically opposed
with their priority being wealth transfer to their
employees
-
9. Is there anything in your background that, if publicized, would prove an embarrassment to you or the Michigan Chamber of Commerce?
 Yes No
I have not been successful at all I have attempted.
My departures from Adrian Public Schools + Harper Woods
Schools could be spun negative, but both highly defensible.
-
10. Have you sought and/or received the endorsement of any other statewide organizations? If so, please list them. Also include whether you have been endorsed by your local chamber of commerce.
 Yes No
Seeking, but not yet received
-

11. Has the current state senator/representative endorsed your candidacy?

Yes No

She (Angerer) is a term-limited Democrat.

12. If elected, what would be your top three legislative priorities?

Improving the business climate to support all businesses to create jobs.
MAINTAIN our infrastructure, particularly our roads
Control school district ~~raise~~ employee wages & benefit costs, then
stabilize education funding

13. Would you vote to impose new or expanded leave mandates on employers, including paid sick or family leave? List any exceptions.

Yes No

14. Realizing that Michigan's unemployment benefit system is 100 percent employer financed through payroll taxes, would you vote to increase or extend Michigan's unemployment benefits? Please explain your response.

Yes No

Further extensions retard return to work & retard downward
wage adjustments needed to recover from recessions

15. One-time federal dollars are available if the state amends its unemployment insurance (UI) laws to include two of the following provisions: (1) Make former part-time workers seeking part-time work eligible for UI benefits; (2) Make claimants voluntarily leaving work for "compelling family reasons" eligible; (3) Provide an additional UI dependent allowance of \$15/dependent or a minimum cap of \$50; and/or (4) Extend UI benefits to claimants who have exhausted regular benefits and are enrolled in job training programs. Knowing that the long-term costs would be paid by employers through higher UI taxes, would you support this proposal?

Yes No

16. A) Since Congress has not yet passed comprehensive immigration reform, do you believe the Michigan Legislature should seek to fill the policy vacuum by passing laws to address this issue?

Yes No

B) If so, would you support placing burdens on employers to enforce state or federal immigration laws, such as requiring mandatory use of the E-Verify system to check employment eligibility? Please explain your response.

Yes No

It can be efficiently done online. But, more importantly, would make
illegal aliens ineligible for drivers license, welfare, etc. etc &
enforce those.

17. Some have called for an increase in Michigan's minimum wage from \$7.40 per hour to \$10 per hour, a full \$2.75 per hour more than the minimum wage required by the federal government. Would you vote in support of such a proposal or any increase in Michigan's minimum wage?

Yes No !

MINIMUM WAGE LAWS INCREASE STRUCTURAL UNEMPLOYMENT
& ELIMINATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW ENTRANTS TO
THE WORKFORCE

18. Would you support legislation to repeal Michigan's prevailing wage act?

Yes No

Those provisions added about 20% to many of our school
projects while a school business manager

19. Would you support legislation to require all public employees, including school teachers to be provided retirement benefits through a system of defined contributions as opposed to defined benefits?

Yes No

20. Would you support legislation to require school teachers and public employees to contribute 20 percent of their healthcare premium costs?

Yes No

21. Do you believe job providers should be able to decide, free of governmental interference, what diseases, medical conditions and other benefits (e.g., mental health, substance abuse, autism, infertility, contraceptives) are included in their health insurance coverage? Are there any exceptions to your answer? List any exceptions.

Yes No

27. Would you vote in favor of legislation to allow landfills designated as 'Landfill Energy Production Facilities' to receive yard waste to help generate additional renewable energy?

Yes No

I am OK with allowing them. I would be hard pressed to require them, however.

28. Would you vote in favor of legislation to change Michigan's longstanding water use principles related to riparian rights by requiring a public trust review for all water uses? Water uses would include water used for agriculture, tourism and manufacturing.

Yes No

A change in law now would deprive current owners of property rights

29. Would you vote in favor of legislation that would allow private sector contractors to be used to help issue environmental permits?

Yes No

30. Do you support or oppose Proposal 1 on the November 2010 ballot to convene a state constitutional convention?

Support Oppose

31. Do you support or oppose retaining Michigan's flat rate personal income tax?

Support Oppose

33. Do you support or oppose the ability of local government entities to levy a sales tax?

Support Oppose

I don't favor higher taxes, although I do support local control on most issues.

34. Do you support or oppose repeal of the film tax credit?

Support Oppose

34. Do you support or oppose reducing MEGA credits in order to provide broad-based tax relief?

Support Oppose

35. Do you support or oppose maintaining Michigan's new Energy Laws, PA 286 of 2008, including provisions to help build new power plants in our state?

Support Oppose

Not familiar enough with all of the provisions to take a knowledgeable position. I support nuclear power & alternate energy sources where they are cost competitive

36. Do you support or oppose the expansion of nuclear power?

Support Oppose

Our youngest son was a nuclear electrician in the US Navy and the last 4 years of his service was an instructor at the nuclear prototype school in Charleston, S.C. This is a topic I am knowledgeable about & strongly supportive.

37. Do you support or oppose the use of state expenditures to subsidize renewable energy development?

Support Oppose

Mildly supportive. We will need these sources in the future & current support will allow the industries to move down the cost curve. Care is needed, however, not to excessively increase electrical rates to make our state even less business friendly.

38. Do you support or oppose an increase in the diesel tax to a level of parity with the gasoline tax?

Support Oppose

We need to maintain our roads. Trucks are the major reason roads get beat up.

39. Do you support or oppose elimination of Medicaid services not mandated by federal law?

Support Oppose

But now prevented by new national healthcare bill, I have been told.

40. Do you support or oppose creation of a legislative commission to review current school district boundaries and draft a consolidation plan that would receive an up or down vote by the Legislature?

Support Oppose

This raises the cost of government.

We have too many units of government of all kinds. They will not consolidate without some additional coercion. This needs to be tied to amendments to the Urban Cooperation Act so that the highest wage & benefit levels don't apply after consolidation and actually raise costs.

41. Would you support or oppose legislation to consolidate all school non-instructional services at the Intermediate School District level?

Support Oppose Not Sure

It would make sense in some cases, but would consolidating Detroit Public Schools into Wayne RESA make sense? Bigger is not always better. Wage levels at most ISDs are higher than local school districts too.

42. Do you support or oppose "across the board" spending reductions as a way to balance the budget?

Support Oppose

We can be smarter than that. There are clear policy choices that are better than others. "Across the board" choices would be a failure to choose.

Candidate signature: Richard Olson Date: 5/23/10

Return to:

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