



Michigan Turnaround Plan 2010 Candidate Questionnaire

The content of this Questionnaire is based entirely on our **Michigan Turnaround Plan**, a comprehensive strategy to make Michigan a "Top Ten" state for job and economic growth. **Note that if a question is not answered, it will be recorded as a "No".**

IMPORTANT: Regarding your responses to this questionnaire, we will be identifying each candidate's level of support for the Michigan Turnaround Plan as strong, moderate, or weak based on the questionnaire responses and will post your level of support on the Michigan Turnaround Plan website at www.MichiganTurnaroundPlan.com.

Changing the Way We Manage Our Finances

These steps are designed to more accurately project state revenues and the ongoing cost of state programs and services

1.) Do you support forming an independent council comprised of public and private sector experts to complete quarterly revenue and spending estimates?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
2.) Do you believe the state should conduct quarterly surveys of a cross-section of Michigan businesses to identify sales & hiring trends to further support accurate revenue projections?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
3.) Do you support changing the law to require the adoption of two-year budgets to more accurately project the on-going cost of programs?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No

Right-Sizing & Enacting Structural Budget Reforms

These steps are based on the fact that we can no longer afford to support our public employee workforce at the current size, structure, wages and benefits levels and we need to restructure at all levels of government and schools.

4.) Do you support reducing state employee compensation to the average compensation of state workers in the US or the average of Michigan private sector workers? (National public sector average is 6% lower than Michigan, the 2007 private sector average is almost \$17,000 less)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
5.) Do you support reducing the state workforce by 5-10% to help balance the budget? <i>Not sure this "across the board" approach works. Targeting based on sunset laws makes more sense</i>	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
6.) Do you support adjusting state employee health care premium contributions to the national public sector average of 17.8%?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No

7.) Would you support legislation to encourage & enable local governments to consolidate and share services, including financially rewarding or penalizing those local units of government that do or do not adopt these policies?	Yes	No
8.) Do you support eliminating binding arbitration for municipal police & fire workers?	Yes	No
9.) Would you support legislation to encourage & enable local school districts to consolidate and share services, including financially rewarding or penalizing those school districts that do or do not adopt these policies?	Yes	No
10.) Do you support transitioning new teachers to a defined contribution retirement system?	Yes	No
11.) Do you support enacting corrections management and sentencing reforms to bring our costs in line with surrounding states?	Yes	No
12.) Do you support eliminating duplicate and optional state programs and regulations that exceed federal standards and programs, such as MIOSHA and state-based ergonomic standards?	Yes	No
<p>Getting Michigan Competitive To Attract & Retain Jobs <i>We believe average isn't good enough and in a global economy we need to be highly competitive and business-friendly if we want to attract and retain jobs for our residents.</i></p>		
<p>13.) To make Michigan more competitive and move us significantly toward becoming a top ten state for job growth by reforming the Michigan business tax structure by enacting a proposal that would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate the MBT Surcharge; • Reduce the MBT gross receipts tax rate from .8% to .45%; • Adopt a 5.5% sales tax on services (exempting B2B transactions, health care, education, housing, and other services that are already taxed); • Reduce the sales tax on goods to 5.5%; and, • <u>Be revenue neutral in 2010</u> 	Yes	No
14.) Do you support requiring fiscal notes that identify the compliance costs of all new laws and regulations impacting business and requiring that they provide a cost/benefit analysis and basis in sound science?	Yes	No
15.) Would you support the creation of a regulatory report card that tracks state department/agency responsiveness on regulatory issues?	Yes	No
16.) Do you believe the state should annually conduct a benchmarking study of Michigan's business costs?	Yes	No

<p>Making Investments That Create A Great Job Environment <i>With limited resources, we must prioritize investments in areas that provide the greatest long-term economic impact</i></p>		
<p>17.) Do you support retaining demanding high-school graduation standards?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>18.) Do you support allowing an unlimited number of charter schools in order to stimulate competition, especially in under-performing districts?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>19.) To ensure we are a "Top Ten" state in higher education, do you support rationalizing the number of colleges & universities to a number the state can support long-term, and increasing funding to the remaining community colleges & universities?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>20.) Do you support adopting new funding formulas to ensure Michigan has adequate revenues to support a "Top Ten" transportation infrastructure, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving to "Top Ten" road condition • Expanding freeway connectivity to adjoining states • Expanding passenger air service throughout Michigan • Supporting mass transit in dense population corridors 	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>21.) Do you support developing a comprehensive Great Lakes strategy that includes incentives, policies and funding that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners with other states on a global marketing program • Supports the growth of tourism amenities • Responsibly utilizes the lakes as an economic asset • Supports the development of residential & retirement destinations that leverage a Great Lakes location 	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>22.) Do you support developing an urban agenda that includes incentives, policies and funding that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attracts people to live downtown • Attracts business investments • Develops mass transit along densely populated corridors 	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Accelerating Job Growth Through Innovation & Entrepreneurship <i>These steps are designed to refocus our state's economic development strategy to growing innovation & entrepreneurship across <u>all</u> sectors.</i></p>		
<p>23.) Do you support collaborative regional growth strategies that would prioritize incentives & grants to those areas working collaboratively?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>24.) Do you support accelerating growth by supporting innovation and entrepreneurship across all business sectors by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing entrepreneurial education • Creating a distinctive university-business partnership focused on attracting business, growing sectors and retaining talent • Growing the pool of venture capital in Michigan • Expanding business incubation & acceleration services 	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>

25.) Do you support developing strategies to grow broad business sectors that leverage Michigan's key assets versus targeting narrow business sectors (e.g. energy, engineering)?

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
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Richard Olson

Candidate's Name

5/26/10

Date

*Rich Olson - The Voice for the People
Candidate for State Rep. - District 55*