



2010 Legislative Candidate Survey

For NFIB Use Only

National Federation of Independent Business/Michigan

The answers and comments you provide in this survey will help determine NFIB/Michigan's possible involvement on behalf of your candidacy. To be eligible for endorsement, this survey must be postmarked or received by NFIB/Michigan via fax **no later than Friday, June 11, 2010**. Please contact NFIB/Michigan at (517) 485-3409 with any questions.

Candidate Name House Senate

Campaign Contact Name District #

Committee Name & Mailing Address

Committee Telephone
Committee Fax
Candidate Cell
Campaign Website
Committee Email

How much money has your campaign raised to date?

Will your campaign accept political action committee (PAC) contributions? Yes No

Do you currently own or work in a small business (less than 50 employees)? Yes No

Are you a current member of NFIB? Yes No

Please mail completed and signed survey to:
NFIB/Michigan
115 West Allegan - Suite 310
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Fax to:
(517) 485-2155

Email to:
Amanda.radaz@nfib.org

TAXATION

1. Do you support repealing the current 22% surcharge on the Michigan Business Tax (MBT)? Yes No

2. If the surcharge on the MBT is repealed, do you support replacing the revenue? Yes No
Yes, if sufficient cost cutting reforms are enacted to control government spending - BUT ONLY IF

If you answered yes, please explain how you would replace the revenue from repealing the MBT surcharge.

I believe it is inevitable that the sales tax be extended to at least some additional services because of the change in the economy. Some tax expenditures, such as income tax exemptions for senior's pensions, etc could be trimmed.

3. Do you support an increase in the gas tax in order to fund road and other infrastructure projects in the state of Michigan? Yes No
we must keep our roads maintained or they will cost more to replace. The use tax is most defensible

4. If taxes were to be raised to balance the state budget, which existing taxes would you raise?

- Income Tax - *trim exclusions*
- Sales Tax - *to some services*
- Real Property Tax
- Personal Property Tax
- Michigan Business Tax
- Real Estate Transfer Tax
- None of the above, I do not support raising any tax

OR ENACT MICHIGAN FAIR TAX

MY PREFERRED OPTION

But, Q. asks if

5. Do you support creating or increasing user fees on business to fund business regulatory agencies as opposed to using general tax revenue? Yes No

6. Do you support extending the Sales Tax to services? Yes No

to some, but only after cost control

7. Do you support reinstating Michigan's Estate (Inheritance) Tax? Yes No

8. Do you support a constitutional amendment requiring a supermajority (two-thirds) vote of the legislature to create any new tax? Yes No

9. Do you support a constitutional amendment requiring a supermajority (two-thirds) vote of the legislature to raise any current tax? Yes No

10. Do you support government targeting tax breaks to specific sectors of the economy? Yes No

I believe we need to create a better business climate for ALL businesses, & NOT have bureaucrats or the legislature attempt to pick winners & losers.

- 11. Do you support the elimination of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) Yes No
- 12. Do you support eliminating the Personal Property Tax? Yes No
- 13. Do you support phasing-out the Personal Property Tax? Yes No
- 14. Do you support creating new or raising other taxes to replace Revenue lost by local governments due to the repeal or phase-out of the Personal Property Tax? Yes No
See above

EMPLOYMENT/WAGES

- 15. Should Michigan's prevailing wage law be repealed? Yes No
- 16. Do you support "Right to Work" legislation? Yes No
- 17. Do you support allowing business owners an opportunity to correct Michigan Occupational Safety & Health Administration (MIOSHA) violations and avoid monetary penalties? Yes No
- 18. Do you support increasing taxes or fees to hire more MIOSHA Inspectors as a means to improve workplace safety? Yes No
?
- 19. Do you support the practice of forced unionization of self-employed business owners who receive state subsidy money from customers? *I don't like more taxes & fees, so probably not.* Yes No
- 20. Do you support raising unemployment insurance benefits? Yes No
- 21. Do you support a claimant receiving unemployment benefits when they have been dismissed or suspended for workplace violence or substance abuse? Yes No
- 22. Do you support allowing victims of domestic abuse resulting in job loss to collect unemployment benefits? Yes No *?*
Probably not, as not job related.
- 23. Do you support changing the unemployment compensation system so that workers could collect benefits for parental leave from their employer? Yes No
- 24. Do you support denying workers' compensation benefits for workers impaired by alcohol or illegal drugs at the time of injury? Yes No
- 25. Do you support considering mental stress as a work-related injury under workers' compensation laws? Yes No
- 26. Do you support undocumented workers (illegal aliens) receiving workers compensation benefits? Yes No

27. Do you support prohibiting employers from hiring replacement workers when current employees are striking? Yes No

28. Do you support the concept of comparable worth, whereas government would require that jobs of a similar nature be compensated equally and a system would be created to establish and monitor job categories to enforce the requirements? Yes No

29. Do you support the development of a mandatory comprehensive Michigan workplace ergonomics standard? Yes No

30. Do you support Michigan specific regulations that are more restrictive than those required by the federal government? Yes No

31. Do you support increasing Michigan's minimum wage? Yes No

If you answered yes, at what level should the minimum wage be set? \$ _____

32. Do you support forbidding local units of government from adopting local minimum wage or benefit ordinances? Yes No

EDUCATION

33. Do you support increasing education funding for K-12 education? Yes No [?]
We need to stabilize education funding, but after cost control measures are enacted, e.g.

34. Do you support instituting an automatic annual increase in K-12 education funding tied to inflation or another indexing mechanism? Yes No *health care*

35. Do you support increasing taxes if it results in additional funding for K-12 education? Yes No

36. Do you support changing current law to allow teachers to strike? Yes No

37. Do you support reducing the fines and penalties against teachers who choose to strike? Yes No

38. Do you support increasing the fines and penalties against teachers who choose to strike? Yes No

HEALTHCARE

39. Would you support a government-operated state health insurance plan? Yes No [?]
*I like the idea of a statewide pool. It would not need to be government-operated. → for state & school district employees.
 This would reduce power of MEA & deprive them of their major money source - MESSA.*

40. Do you support requiring employers to provide healthcare coverage to all employees and pay for all or part of the cost? Yes No

If you answered yes, what portion of the cost do you support requiring employers to pay?

- All
- Percentage _____%
- None

41. Do you support the current lawsuit filed by several states, including Michigan, to declare the recently enacted Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act unconstitutional? Yes No

42. Do you support repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act? Yes No

43. Do you support requirements that health insurance providers include certain mandatory health coverages in their contracts? Yes No

If yes, which mandatory health coverage would you require?

44. Do you support requiring that all health coverage cover mental illness and treatment the same as any other covered illness? Yes No

45. Do you support expanding the ability of insured individuals to file lawsuits against insurers or health maintenance organizations (HMOs)? Yes No

ENVIRONMENT/PROPERTY RIGHTS

46. Do you support requiring all businesses to recycle? Yes No

47. Do you support requiring compensation to property owners for laws or regulations that diminish the value or use of their property? Yes No

48. Do you support directing infrastructure spending away from rural areas and to cities to combat urban sprawl? Yes No *through incentives, not regulation*

49. Do you support restricting government use of eminent domain to only necessary public-use purposes like roads, hospitals, airports, fire stations, etc.? Yes No

50. Would you support legislation that says that groundwater under private property belongs to the state of Michigan? Yes No

51. Do you support requiring all Michigan service stations to offer a form of "biofuel" or fuel produced from organic matter? Yes No

52. Do you support eliminating outdoor billboard advertising? Yes No

53. Do you support mandating a certain percentage of all electric power be from a renewable resource and building any extra cost into all electric rates? Yes No
but include nuclear in definition & keep % reasonable

MISCELLANEOUS

54. Do you support a part-time legislature? Yes No
I have worked with a part-time legislature & it would not solve any problems

55. Do you support moving away from deregulation regarding Michigan's power suppliers? Yes No ?
NOT KNOWLEDGEABLE ENOUGH ON THIS ISSUE

56. Do you support the privatization or outsourcing of government services if the measure results in cost savings? Yes No

57. Do you support a constitutional amendment stipulating that public employees (state, local, ~~teachers~~) pay and benefit packages must be comparable and not above that of the private sector? Yes No
but support such legislation

58. Do you support prohibiting state and local government from offering goods and/or services in direct competition with private enterprise? Yes No ??

In principle, no - There may be limited exceptions that are OK. Difficult to define, however.

59. Do you support requiring the loser in a legal dispute to pay all court costs and attorney fees for the prevailing party? Yes No
Only if malicious prosecution or VERY ill founded.

60. Do you support allowing an injured plaintiff to collect more than Actual damages even if the plaintiff is deemed more than fifty percent at fault for the injury by a jury? Yes No
I am not sure I understand the Q - it would not seem that they would collect even the full Actual Damage. IS > 50% at fault

61. Do you support requiring a supermajority (two-thirds) vote of the Legislature in order to pass any law that preempts or otherwise impacts the authority of local governments? Yes No

62. Do you support reducing funding to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)? Yes No

63. Michigan is facing a budget crisis and will need to take drastic steps in order to get the state's fiscal house in order. If you are elected to the legislature, how would you balance the budget? Please check all that apply.

- Raise Taxes
- Enact cost saving reforms
- Make cuts to Michigan's budget

If you answered reforms or taxes, please elaborate on specific reforms or taxes for which you would advocate:

I favor the revenue neutral Michigan Fair Tax. The target should first be the reforms proposed by the Business Leaders for Michigan, MI Chamber of Commerce & NFIB. Some good ideas from the Legislative Commission on Government Efficiency. To get the bulk of those reforms, we may need to give a bit on a tax system that extends sales tax to services.

My main focus on cuts would be state employee & school employees wages, & benefits

Please list the organizations/associations which have endorsed your candidacy in this election in the box below:

I have not solicited any yet in this race with primary election opposition. I would be surprised if I do not get Michigan Farm Bureau endorsement after the 6/11 interview.

Please include in the box below any additional information you believe should be included in the review of your candidacy for endorsement. Additional comments may include presentation of a general platform to ensure the continued vitality of Michigan's small-business community, elaboration upon a specific issue, additional information on your work history within a small business, and/or any information you deem pertinent to the endorsement process.

See attached pages from my website.

Richard Olson

Candidate's Signature (survey is not complete without)

5/18/10

Date

Please mail completed and signed survey to:
NFIB/Michigan
115 West Allegan – Suite 310
Lansing, MI 48933

Fax to:
(517) 485-2155

Email to:
Amanda.radaz@nfib.org

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I know how to get things done.

We need experienced, knowledgeable people in the legislature to meet our challenges. With term limits, we don't have the luxury of electing someone who is going to have to learn on the job. I have worked with a legislature for three years, and served as an attorney in the Washington State Governor's Office for a year. And, with a lifetime of financial, legal, both public and private business management and leadership experience,

I can hit the ground running.

We must improve the state's business climate to create jobs.

Innovation and entrepreneurship in small businesses will create jobs and grow our way out of the economic mess our state is in. Ranked 48th out of 50 is NOT acceptable!

Experienced and Knowledgeable

Michigan State University Graduate, 1970

Stanford Law School Graduate, 1978

Attorney, Washington State Legislature -1981- 1983

Attorney, WA Governor's Office – 1983-84

Washington State Bar Association - 1978-97

Passed Michigan Bar Exam, 2009

Certified Financial Planner - 1984-1989

Private Business Manager – 15 Years

Public School Business Manager – 7 Years

Corn Grower Cooperative President

Agricultural Economist – 1970-1975

Washtenaw County Republican Executive Committee

Michigan native - a Yooper, who always seems to return to Michigan after sojourns away, like a boomerang.

Why My Experience is Important

Our current State Representative is one of 50 of the 110 State Representatives who are term limited and cannot run again. 31 of 38 State Senators are term limited, along with the Governor, the Secretary of State and the Attorney General. We will need people with the kind of experience I have who can be effective from day one, especially with the massive turnover in elected officials in Lansing.

Issues

The legislature considers many, many issues each legislative session. I will be discussing many of these issues here and in my blog, [Sharing Ideas for a Better Michigan](#) as the campaign progresses. However, I can tell you now that **my focus will be on making Michigan more competitive again in the world economy, and special focus on what we can do for our small businesses to prosper, grow and create jobs.**

For a general discussion of some of my underlying beliefs, see [The Role of "Democratic" Discussions and "Public Voice"](#) from my site [Coming Together: Reaching Common Understanding](#) which I use to promote more bi-partisanship by moderating National Issues Forum "deliberative dialogue" forums.

I have many posts on a wide variety of topics on my [Facebook Page](#).

What issues are you most interested in or concerned about? Let me know!

If I had to pick one group of ideas proposed by any one group, it would be the **Business Leaders for Michigan, with its Michigan Turnaround Plan:**

Five Steps For A Better Michigan

- Changing the Way We Manage Our Finances
- Right-sizing & Enacting Structural Budget Reforms
- Getting Michigan Competitive To Attract & Retain Jobs
- Making Investments That Create A Great Job Environment
- Accelerating Job Growth Through Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Of course, the devil is in the details. For example, in the point of "Getting Michigan Competitive to Attract & Retain Jobs" is the notion of drastically reducing or eliminating the Michigan Business Tax and its 22% surcharge. One way to do that is by adopting the **Michigan FairTax** (which I happen to like in general, but need to learn more of the specifics), but there may be other ways. For the National Issues Forum style Issue Guide on this topic, see **Reforming the Michigan Tax Structure: Putting Michigan Back to Work**, which is my site for conducting civil, informed discussion forums on serious, complex and difficult subjects, with the goals of reaching better understanding of others' perspectives and hopefully find some common ground.

But, one thing I am very much in line with the Michigan Chamber of Commerce and the National Federation of Independent Business is that we must have restructuring of state spending concurrent with reforming the tax structure. We cannot leave in place a bloated bureaucracy and excessive spending on salaries and benefits for public employees and simply fund them better. **We must cut state spending to live within our means!**

Posts on my blog:

State Issues:

- [Quick Hits Regarding Unions](#)
- [Reform of MPERS Retirement System Necessary – But Only Wisely](#)
- [Were home based child care workers unionized against their will? The controversy continues.....](#)
- [Improving the Business Climate to Create Jobs](#)
- [Posts to Facebook re Michigan's Budget Crisis](#)
- [Taxes and Spending -- the Perennial Issues](#)
- [Defending the Constitution](#)
- [Lowering the Cost of Public Safety Services](#)
- [Is the Name of the Michigan "FairTax" a Sham?](#)
- [Bureaucrats Should Not be Picking Winners and Losers in Our Free Market Economy](#)
- ["Cool It" Changes the Climate Change Debate](#)
- [Bipartisan Reforms Would Strengthen State Education](#)
- [10 Republican Principles Proposed by RNC Leaders](#)
- [Gas Tax Increase Acceptable Only if Coupled With Change in Allocation Formula](#)

- [Controlling Public School Employee Benefit Costs](#)
- [Repeal PA 312 to Eliminate Binding Arbitration for Police and Firefighters?](#)
- [Consolidate School Services? Districts?](#)
- [Washtenaw County ISD Millage - There are Better Options](#)
- [Michigan Laws that Impede Greater Efficiency through Collaboration](#)
- [Detroit News Editorial Hits a Home Run on What Needs to be Done](#)
- [Kids short changed in considering number of days of instruction](#)
- [Five Step Program to Kick the Tax and Spend Addiction and Grow Jobs](#)
- [How to Fix Michigan - Business and Political Leaders Weigh In](#)
- [Democrats Confused About Business Taxes. Or are They?](#)
- [The Michigan Fair Tax Looks Fairly Good](#)
- [Funding for Public Employee Retirement Plans and Post-Retirement Benefits Under Pressure...](#)
- [The Mackinac Center Weighs in on the Idea of a Statewide Health Insurance Plan for State Employees.](#)
- [Michigan House of Representatives Republican Caucus Plan](#)
- [The Michigan Legislature's Balancing Act – or Not](#)
- [A Statewide Health Insurance Plan for Michigan's Public Employees?](#)

Local and Federal Issues:

- [The Ann Arbor Airport Expansion Is Not Justified Now](#)
- [News Release in Opposition to Closing the Temperance Secretary of State Office](#)
- [Parliamentary Procedure Interactive Workshop Available](#)
- [Lifelong Learning](#)
- [Consumer Confidence, the Paradox of Thrift. Is it all a Hoax?](#)
- [The Dow Reaching 10,000 is a BIG Deal](#)
- [Activists' Dilemma: My Party's Candidate and I Don't Agree!](#)
- [Can We Defend Ourselves? The Heritage Foundation says, "No."](#)
- [How to Influence Public Policy](#)
- [Robbing Peter to Pay Paul?](#)
- [National Value Added Tax Considered - Tax Increases Ahead](#)
- [Federal Budget: Spending and Taxing Revisited](#)
- [Nuclear Power Tidbits](#)

National Health Care Reform Legislation:

- [Can the Federal government require anyone to buy anything, or is there some Constitutional limit?](#)
- [The Actual Number of "Uninsured" in the US](#)
- [The Fight Over a Health Care Reform Bill is not Done](#)
- [Constitutional Limits Tested by Health Care Reform?](#)
- [Capitol Hill Switchboard Used For Partisan Purposes](#)
- [Comparing Health Care Plans - Focus on Costs Still Needed](#)
- [The "Public Option" in the Health Care Reform House Bill 3200](#)
- [Republicans Support Health Care Reform - Just not the President or Democrat Congress's Proposals.](#)
- [Another View on Controlling Health Care Costs](#)
- [Looking at France's Universal Care Program](#)
- [Controlling Health Care Costs](#)
- [More from the White House on Health Care Reform](#)
- [I received an e-mail today from David Axelrod, Senior Advisor to the President](#)
- [Who Can You Believe? Part 2](#)
- [Who Can You Believe?](#)
- [Will Health Care Reform Result in Rationing of Services? Of course....](#)
- [More Concerns about Health Care Reform](#)
- [Health Care Reform Forum Materials](#)