

Candidate Name: Rick Olson

Office you are seeking: State Representative District # 55

Committee Name: Rick Olson - The Voice For The People

Committee Address: 525 Judd Road
Saline MI 48176

Campaign Phone: 734-944-0794

Campaign E-mail: olson48176@comcast.net

Candidate Signature: Rick Olson

GENERAL

1. Do you now, or have you ever owned a small business?

Yes No

2. If yes, what is the name of the business and what kind of business is it?

1984-89 Certified Financial Planner

1998-2000 Internet Business Center

2007-present Peak Effectiveness.com

3. Realizing that all of the issues listed below are important, what do you think the top priorities should be for Michigan's elected officials right now? Please pick and rank your top three. Feel free to rank more than three if you would like to.

- 1 Making Michigan a better place for business by reducing taxes and regulation
2 Making Michigan a better place to do business by investing in infrastructure and economic development
Protecting Michigan workers
Protecting and enhancing spending for critical state programs
Enhancing job training opportunities for Michigan citizens
Increasing funding for education
4 Improving our state's educational system
Protecting our environment
Fighting and reducing crime
3 Working to control the growing cost of health care
Other _____
Other _____

TAXES

4. Do you believe the business tax burden in Michigan is...

Too high Too low At an appropriate level

5. As you are probably aware, a surcharge of 22% was placed on the new Michigan Business Tax late in 2007 to replace the short-lived services tax. Would you vote to...

Eliminate the Surcharge Reduce the Surcharge Keep the surcharge

6. SBAM is a strong supporter of the Alternative Profits Tax for small business.

Would you vote to expand the number of businesses that are eligible for this tax?

Yes

No

I am not familiar with the APT, but if SBAM is a strong supporter, I would listen to that expertise.

7. Some have proposed expanding the sales tax to include services. Would you vote to include make services subject to the sales tax?

Yes

No

Because of the change in MI's economy, I believe the sales tax will eventually be extended to at least some more services.

BUDGET

But, we must first control spending & reform state gov't. especially state employee & school district wages & benefits.

8. Do you believe state government spending is...

Too high

Too low

At an appropriate level

9. Which statement most closely reflects your opinion on taxes and the state budget?

- We need more taxes to fund critical state programs.
- I don't like to raise taxes, but recently it was necessary to fund critical programs.
- Much more state spending must be cut before taxes are even considered.
- I will never raise taxes.

10. With regard to the state budget do you agree with the following statement? The state should enact structural reforms to state government before considering new taxes.

Yes

No

11. Would you support making public employee benefits more closely reflect private sector benefits?

Yes

No

Not sure

HEALTH CARE

12. Do you support an employer mandate that would require businesses with less than 50 employees to provide health insurance to their employees?

Yes

No

13. Will you support additional mandates on health insurance that require that specific benefits are offered? (Such as autism, mental health and contraceptives)

Yes _____ No Depends on the Mandate _____

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

14. Will you work to ensure that the gardening approach to economic development, where the focus is on providing tools and creating the right climate for Michigan's small businesses to grow, becomes a higher priority for the state?

Yes No _____ Not sure _____

15. Would you work to make entrepreneurial education a higher priority in our schools from K-12 to our universities and community colleges?

Yes No _____ Not sure _____

16. Would you vote to make "tech-transfer," the concept of getting university research out of the lab and into the marketplace, part of the funding formula for higher education?

Yes _____ No _____ Not sure *The concept sounds right, but I would need more info.*

REGULATION AND GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

17. Numerous bills are currently being considered by the legislature. Do you support the following proposals?

a. Regulation that would require every Michigan business to have ergonomics guidelines and training.

Yes _____ No Not sure _____

b. Regulation that would require that businesses determine which jobs have "comparable worth" and pay those positions the same.

Yes _____ No Not sure _____

c. New laws that would further limit the ability of an employer to hire and fire employees for any reason they see fit.

Yes _____ No Not sure _____

d. A proposal that would not allow state agencies to promulgate rules that are more strict than federal standards without legislative approval.

Yes No Not sure

18. Would you vote to increase unemployment benefits?

Yes Never Not in the near future

19. Would you vote to index unemployment benefits to inflation?

Yes No

20. Would you vote to expand those eligible for unemployment benefits to include part-time workers seeking part-time work?

Yes No

21. Would you vote to increase the minimum wage?

Yes No Not in the near future

22. Do you support policies that allow government entities to directly compete with existing businesses in the private sector?

Yes No