

United States Representative 2 Year Term – Vote for One (1)

Candidates were asked to summarize their backgrounds in 75 words and were allotted 75 words to answer each question. If the candidate did not reply by the required date for publication, the words, "Did not respond in time for publication" appear under the candidate's name.

QUESTION 1
Are you concerned about the size of the federal deficit?
Explain your answer.

QUESTION 2
What government measures would you propose to improve access to affordable health care?

QUESTION 3
The United States uses a great deal of fossil fuel for power generation and transportation. What measures would you support to tackle the ever increasing need for energy?

★★★★★ **9th District** ★★★★★

Joe Knollenberg, Republican

I am currently the Representative for Michigan's 9th Congressional District. I serve as the chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury and Housing and Urban Development. I have served in Congress since 1993. Prior to being elected to Congress, I owned and operated a small business in Troy and was active in the Troy Chamber of Commerce. I earned my BS from Eastern Illinois University and served in the Army.

I am a fiscal conservative who believes we must return to a balanced budget so I am very concerned about the federal deficit. I have been working hard to eliminate wasteful spending and bring the deficit down. Last year, I led the effort on the House Appropriations Committee to eliminate nearly 100 duplicative programs to save taxpayers \$5 billion. This year, I have voted against \$45 billion of proposed spending increases.

As a first step, I believe we need to enact meaningful medical liability reform to end the frivolous lawsuits that are forcing doctors to practice defensive medicine and driving up health care costs. I also believe small businesses should be allowed to band together to negotiate more affordable insurance rates for their employees. Lastly, I support expanding health savings accounts to give patients greater control over their own health care spending.

I feel strongly that America must reduce our dependence on Middle East oil. This is a national security issue. I believe we need to invest in the development of alternative fuel technology. To this end, I have secured \$10 million for alternative fuel research being conducted by U of M and Oakland University. I also voted to provide tax credits to consumers who buy fuel-efficient hybrids, clean diesels and other alternative fuel vehicles.

Nancy Skinner, Democrat

A Royal Oak native. Earned a BBA from the University of Michigan. Worked with the Ilitch family on Detroit redevelopment and did extensive work promoting environmentally sustainable housing. Helped launch the Chicago Climate Exchange, the nation's first voluntary emissions trading program, and in 1997, turned to radio. By 2000, had syndicated morning show that inspired Air America. In 2004, lost to Barack Obama in U.S. Senate bid. Most recently, hosted Detroit progressive radio's morning show.

Today's deficit amounts to \$156,000 for each American man, woman and child. This is a catastrophic crisis in the making. Foreign ownership of U.S. Treasury bonds and notes stands at more than 40 percent, putting us at risk of becoming a debtor nation and endangering our national security. The debt is so large, we can not grow our way out of it. We must stop runaway spending and restore fiscal accountability to the federal government.

We must use the federal government's size and economic power to leverage lower healthcare and prescription drug costs. Prices continue to skyrocket each year, crippling industry and leaving 46 million Americans uninsured. The government should be allowed to compete with private health insurers to offer assistance to America's uninsured through a voluntary Medicare option. Bargaining is the answer on prescription drugs, too, reducing the power of pharmaceutical companies and awarding it instead to consumers.

Michigan automakers can lead the way on curbing America's dependence on foreign oil and creating sustainable and environmentally-friendly vehicles. The federal government gives \$6 billion in subsidies to oil producers, companies already earning record-breaking profits. My plan, called the Next Great American Journey, would use that \$6 billion as an incentive for American automakers to produce marketable, alternative-fuel vehicles *en masse*. For our economy, security and environment, we must end foreign oil dependence.

Matthew R. Abel, Green

48 years old, resident of West Bloomfield for ten years, one son in the public schools, and one son at M.S.U. I am a criminal defense attorney specializing in defense of marijuana cases. Education: Associate Degree Criminal Justice Castleton State College (VT), B.A.Philosophy, M.S.A. Public Administration CMU, law degree Wayne State University. Eagle Scout, member of National Lawyers Guild, ACLU, NORML. I want to be elected to Congress to impeach Bush and Cheney!

Yes. The huge increase in the deficit is due to the "war" (undeclared - which is unconstitutional) and corporate welfare. We need to be work for peace, jobs and justice.

We must adopt a single-payer health care system with complete coverage for all persons, and work to reduce costs and improve health through expanded preventative care.

There should be a carbon tax on all sources of pollution. We must move toward generation of clean, renewable energy, including solar, wind, and hydro power. This will bring us a cleaner environment, jobs, and better health for all.

Adam Goodman, Libertarian

Did not respond in time for publication.

Vote Tuesday, November 7

Use the form on page 32 to write down your ballot choices.

Clip it and take it to the polls with you!