

**United States House of Representatives 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**

What should the federal government do, if anything, to ensure that every American has health coverage? (75 words)

**QUESTION 2**

What should be done, if anything, at the federal level to reduce our use of and dependence on fossil fuels? (75 words)

**QUESTION 3**

What measures would you support at the federal level that would help our Michigan economy? (75 words)

**★★★ District 2 ★★★**

**Peter Hoekstra, Republican**

Congressman Hoekstra serves as the top Republican on the House's Select Intelligence Committee and is a member of the Education and Labor Committee. Prior to his election to Congress, he worked for 15 years at office furniture manufacturer Herman Miller, where he held the title of Vice President of Marketing. Pete holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Hope College in Holland and holds an MBA from the U of M. Pete lives in Holland, Michigan...

I support universal access to health insurance through the free market. Congress needs to empower consumers to lower the cost of health care and allow more access to the system through choice. Cost transparency, reduction of duplicative services and increased use of health information technology are needed to control the cost of health care. I strongly support Health Savings Accounts that allow individuals to set aside money tax-free into accounts to pay for health expenditures.

The federal government needs to pursue an "all of the above" strategy to implement 21st Century technologies and work towards energy independence. Congress needs to support the development of alternative fuels, offer tax incentives for home fuel conservation, avoid tax increases on the energy industry that will be passed on to consumers, and build new nuclear power plants. Implementing all of the above policies would decrease our dependence upon foreign oil and fossil fuels.

Enact mirror trade agreements that provide the same access to foreign markets that we allow to ours and that do not sacrifice American jobs. Pass tax policies that enable companies to compete and create jobs. Decreasing the corporate tax rate and extending the R&D tax credit would greatly help companies to succeed. I have also introduced legislation that slashes burdensome federal mandates while providing flexibility to state leaders to address our problems with federal funds.

**Fred Johnson, Democrat**

I currently teach history at Hope College in Holland, Michigan, and have served as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. While earning my masters and doctorate, I also worked in the automotive, telecom, and aerospace industries. I have published three novels and am currently writing a book on U.S. foreign policy in Africa.

Access to quality, affordable health care should be a right of every American. The power of the insurance companies needs to be curtailed, including their practice of disqualifying people for pre-existing conditions and denying needed care to patients.

America must immediately begin aggressively building an alternative energy infrastructure focusing upon wind, natural gas, solar, bio-fuels, and other resources that can be domestically harnessed. Nuclear technology like the breeder reactors should be utilized and foreign policy should be reformed to ensure good relations with oil suppliers as steady efforts proceed toward eliminating U.S. reliance upon fossil fuels.

To help Michigan's economy, the Federal Government can support research and development efforts in the automotive sector to fast track fuel-efficient vehicles and component parts of the 21st Century. Federal assistance to rebuild our infrastructure, educational assistance to ensure that our children have the skills and training they need, and supporting the diversification of Michigan's economic base will all help restore and redevelop Michigan's economy.

**Dan Johnson, Libertarian**

Did not respond in time for publication

**Ronald E. Graeser  
US Taxpayers**

Did not respond in time for publication



**★★★ District 3 ★★★**

**Vernon J. Ehlers, Republican**

Ehlers was elected to Congress in December 1993. A former Physics Professor and Ph.D. research physicist, active in community service, Ehlers served previously in the Michigan House and Senate. Ehlers currently serves on the House Administration Committee as Ranking Member; the Science and Technology Committee, as Ranking Member on the Subcommittee for Research and Science Education; the Education and Labor Committee; the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress.

Most Americans receive health insurance coverage subsidized partly or in full by the federal government. Federal programs, such as employer tax subsidies to provide health insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, Tricare and the Veterans Administration provide more than 250 million health insurance policies for Americans. I have supported proposals to provide tax credits for purchasing individual health insurance, expansions of the SCHIP program for children and Association Health Plans for small employers to negotiate for health insurance...

I have strongly supported the development of alternative and renewable energy resources, and I have promoted efforts to increase energy efficiency and fuel economy so that we can decrease our dependence on fossil fuels. This includes tax credits for electricity produced through wind, biomass, geothermal, small irrigation power, landfill gas facilities and trash combustion facilities. I also support incentives for hybrid and alternative fuel vehicle purchases and tax credits for home energy efficiency improvements.

I am committed to supporting federal policies that will strengthen economic growth in Michigan. I support expanding the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program which helps manufacturers in Michigan cut costs and become more efficient. We must eliminate unnecessary regulations and taxes that hinder our economic growth, and we must ensure that our trade policies are fair. Also, I support providing worker training funds and extended unemployment benefits to assist Michigan workers and their families.

**Henry Sanchez, Democrat**

Lifelong Michigan resident, born in Alma, lived in Lansing and East Grand Rapids, working class, 32 years w/telephone company, union member & executive board member CWA; parent (children grown); current - small business man, lives with wife Linda on farm in Ionia County; veteran Vietnam era, community volunteer at many levels, previous chair Democratic Hispanic Latino caucus, previous appointee Governor's Commission on Spanish Speaking Affairs; website - sanchezforuscongress.org

82% of people polled say it is time to do a complete overhaul of our healthcare system. 62% of doctors say it's time to do something different. It's time to change our system to cover the 47 million Americans without health coverage. I would like to see a single payer healthcare system. I think healthcare should be a right - not a privilege for the entitled few.

It is time to get off our addiction to oil and move ahead to renewable energy. We must start now to go green with wind and solar power, with geothermal, and fuels made from algae or cellulostic, with grass that produces less carbon. We can start to do this now. We could convert cars to natural gas which burns much cleaner. We have the resources to get us to "renewable."

I would support an "Apollo" type, or any special project to enable green technology. We need jobs that pay a living wage. We need low interest loans to our auto industries, to push battery technology and bioenergy that produce better mileage and less carbon footprints on our earth. I would like wind turbines along the west coast of Michigan. I'd like more businesses (and jobs) manufacturing solar panels.

**Erwin J. Haas, Libertarian**

Born in Buffalo, NY 1942; BA Canisius College, Biology-chemistry, minors in classical languages and philosophy; MD State University of NY at Buffalo; MBA Grand Valley State University; US Army Flight Surgeon. Vietnam and Fort Dix. Married, 3 kids. Solo practice of Infectious Diseases in Grand Rapids. Civic: Past Board Member Grand Valley Coop Credit Union and Hospice of West Michigan 1995-1998; Grand Rapids Mayor's Drug Task force 1997.

The feds should adopt market driven medical care systems like the Consumer Driven Health Care system advocated by Herzlinger at Harvard; a Medical Savings account funded in part by the government. Medical care costs can be lowered by discouraging Certificate of Need laws, Getting rid of the FDA (prone to bribery and mistakes; private testing companies are economically efficient), arbitration instead of malpractice, globalizing surgical procedures. See erwinhaas.lpwm.org.

Two problems: electricity production for which nuclear power is the eminently reasonable solution. The feds should provide storage/disposal for nuclear waste and get rid of a host of environmental regulations. Transportation will need oil in the medium term, so allow drilling. Electric cars will probably be used in the long term, and the market will take care of that. Get rid of solar, wind, the gasohol swindle etc.

The feds tax folks in Michigan for 20% of their income, and send back 18%, that marginal 2% guarantee our poverty as it's the growth that we're missing. If we didn't send 20% to Washington, we wouldn't have to beg to get it back. It is best to lower regulations since virtually anything that someone in Michigan could do to earn a living, or start a business is forbidden.