

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 12 ★★★

Bert Copple, Republican

Did not respond in time for publication

Sander Levin, Democrat

Did not respond in time for publication

John Vico, Libertarian

My name is John Vico, I am running for the post of Representative in Congress for the 12Th District in Michigan. I have no prior political experience. I am married to Deanna; we have a daughter named Giuliana. I am an office manager for the research and development department. My wife is an Elementary School Teacher in St. Clair Shores.

As a Libertarian I feel that the Federal Government should stay out of the health care business. Health care would be better served by individuals and at a more local level. Our current health care is overwhelmed by Corporate greed, and bureaucratic red tape. Federal Government could ensure all Americans health care by cutting wasteful spending. Reduce foreign aid, and reduce size of government.

Fossil fuels are the most out dated technology we have. This country used to be the leader in new technology; I know we can be the leader again. The problem is most renewable energy does not make the profits Corporate wants. America should also look at how most European countries deal with their fossil fuel problems. We could use methane from land fills. Solar, wind, and new battery technologies.

To help Michigan's economy I would help repeal NAFTA, CAFTA, and most other free trade agreements that hurt American workers and help foreign nations. We also need to restructure our tax system that would better serve business private and public, and for the people. More of Michigan's tax money needs to stay in Michigan and not in D.C, invest more in education.

Les Townsend, US Taxpayers

Married (wife Sharon) with two children (Abigail and Amanda); Age 61; Blanchard High School graduate in 1964; US Army service from 1964 to 1968 with service in Japan and Korea; Graduated from Central Michigan University in 1972 with BS in Finance, Minor in Political Science. Hired by the IRS in 1972. Retired from the IRS where I worked as a Pension Agent auditing and reviewing the legal language in all types of pension pans. The...

Nothing. Any effort to ensure that all people in this country have health insurance will require that the approximately 30 million uninsured who can pay for some coverage (at least catastrophic coverage) to purchase health insurance. This type of mandate is not one of the enumerated powers of the federal government, and is in fact reserved to the states by the 10th Amendment to the Constitution. Health Insurance Reform is a state issue.

We need to set up a pension style trust fund for Social Security which Congress can't spend and then fund this trust fund by transferring the oil and gas properties held by the government. When these properties are transferred with a legislative mandate to develop the resources which supersedes all other laws, we will end our dependence on imported oil. The development of alternative energy sources has already started and will continue due to the...

We need to replace the Income Tax with a 50% Revenue Tariff on all imports of goods and services. This act will end the massive outsourcing of our manufacturing base to third world sweat shops in the name of free trade. Free trade is not free and has cost Michigan several hundred thousand good jobs. This action will also set the stage for the complete, total and permanent elimination of the IRS, since tariffs are...

William J. Opalicky, Green

Please call me Bill. I'm a lifetime Michigan resident and have resided in this district (Southfield) for the past 27 years. I've been married for 34 years and have one grown son. I'm retired from the steel industry, where I've worked in sales and administration for 37 years. My academic training consisted of business and metallurgy. Exciting stuff, huh?

Universal single-payer health care is the way to go. If elected, I'd sign-on to John Conyers' HR 676. Most of our elected federal officials, however, don't work to serve the people; they're indentured to the various industries that have purchased their votes. Private health care providers and the pharmaceuticals have to be reined in. Can you say, "Graft?"

There's an urgent need to build mass-transit systems and to develop solar, wind and other types of clean energy. A serious effort at the federal level will not happen if Big Energy is allowed to call the shots. Nationalize the oil companies! No nukes! Clean coal is an urban legend! For some reason I don't trust T. Boone Pickens, despite those giant windmills twirling in the background in his infomercials.

Our current trade policies have damaged Michigan's economy and contributed mightily to job loss and related woes. Let's repeal them. And while we're at it, let's make American corporations that manufacture abroad pay heavy tariffs on goods brought into the United States.

★★★ District 13 ★★★

Edward J. Gubics, Republican

Did not respond in time for publication

Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick Democrat

Did not respond in time for publication

Gregory Creswell, Libertarian

Born February 1, 1957; Chadsey High School (Detroit, MI), Graduated 1975; Attended Wayne County Community College; Married 1982; We have one (1) son and also one (1) daughter, both are in College; Employed since July 1975 at the DMC; a Brass Roots Member; a vocal representative of the petition drive to put the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative on the ballot in 2006; November 2006 Creswell received The Libertarian Party of Michigan's Spokesperson on Liberty Award...

No politician can ensure that every American has health care, but here are my solutions in dealing with the health care issue. Stop forcing insurance companies to provide coverage, get politicians and bureaucrats completely out of health care. Repeal the 16Th Amendment; repeal each federal regulation, such as, fees, permits, licenses associated with health care. Allow the free market to provide as before, free clinics, charity hospitals, doctors and nurses to make house calls without...

No politician or bureaucrat should have the power (or control) to reduce (or increase) our use of and dependence on fossil fuels. It is none of their business. The free market is the best solution, which also means free trade. Complete freedom from government regulations, permits, licenses and fees. Repealing the 16Th Amendment, selling off federal land would allow businesses to find new sites to drill to at least sell it, at a lower price.

I would-if elected-endorse or co-sponsors bill repealing all federal man dates, repealing the 16Th Amendment and immediately returning to MI all, national parks. Also I would endorse or co-sponsor a bill repealing 99% of the federal projects within MI, immediately. And the most important thing is, I would support "Keeping the federal government out of the affairs of (ALL) states". Federalism must survive.

George L. Corsetti, Green

I have lived in Detroit for 65 years. I have degrees in accounting and law from WSU and have been an attorney for 37 years. I produced and directed an award winning documentary, "Poletown Lives!", about the destruction of a Detroit neighborhood for an auto plant. While representing a consumer group I worked on the Michigan Consumer Protection Act, the Employee Right to Know Act, utility shut off rules and a lawsuit against police spying.

A majority of the American people, and fifty-nine percent of physicians in an April 2008 poll, favor single payer or full government health insurance (as in full Medicare for all) with free choice of hospital and doctor, private delivery of care, and far less administrative costs and billing fraud. The health insurance companies would be displaced and we would all save money. We need to pass this legislation immediately.

We can cut fossil fuels use by: conservation, encouraged by a well funded publicity program; government investment and tax incentives for renewable technologies like wind, tidal, solar, geothermal; increased fuel economy for vehicles; more government investment in mass transit and railroads; tax incentives for retrofitting homes with renewable technologies, high efficiency furnaces, insulation, caulking, multi-pane windows; all funded by a windfall profits tax on oil companies and an end to war funding.

Michigan leads the nation in unemployment and Detroit is the poorest large city. It is time for drastic measures: transfer military funding to social programs; establish a WPA-style jobs program; increase spending on infrastructure, railroads and mass transit; tax incentives to retrofit houses with energy saving devices; repeal Taft-Hartly restrictions on union organizing; repeal job-outsourcing treaties like NAFTA, CAFTA, WTO, GATT, 'Fast Track'; support local economies and small business, not banks.

