

ACLU of Michigan | 2010 Election Candidate Questionnaire

Electing officials who understand the importance of our civil liberties and rights and who promise to uphold them is perhaps more crucial now than ever before. The ACLU of Michigan as a nonpartisan organization is dedicated to the informed and active participation of our members in the political process through education and advocacy.

The following questionnaire was sent to all state legislative candidates who will appear on the November ballot. The ACLU position is indicated at the top of the table. The ratings column indicates the degree to which the candidate is in agreement with ACLU policy. Due to space constraints, candidates were limited to “yes” or “no” responses. A question for which no response (NR) is listed indicates that the candidate chose not to respond or responded with a narrative not direct enough to determine his/her position.

The response rate this election year to the ACLU of Michigan's Candidate Questionnaire is unusually low - below 10 percent. We heard early on that candidates from both parties were being advised to be cautious about the questionnaires to which they respond to given the particularly caustic political environment this year. The ACLU's legislative office followed up with the candidates by phone and by email asking for their participation in our candidate survey, but the response rate was still disappointingly low.

We hope you find your candidate's response in this list, but if not please reach out and ask them why they didn't respond. If you have a question regarding any of the responses, we encourage you to contact the candidate directly. For more information about this and other voting rights issues, please visit: www.aclumich.org/sites/default/files/file/MI_VEC_2010.pdf.

1. Michigan's zero tolerance" expulsion law is broader in scope than required by the federal Gun-Free Schools Act, and has dramatically increased the rates of expulsion for all Michigan students. Do you support amending Michigan's "zero tolerance" expulsion law to conform more strictly to federal law?
2. Do you support upholding *Roe v. Wade*, which held that a woman's right to an abortion falls within her right to privacy?
3. Do you support comprehensive sex education that includes both the discussion of abstinence and contraception?
4. Do you oppose public funding, such as tuition tax credits or vouchers, to support students attending private or parochial schools?
5. States have a constitutional obligation to provide qualified legal counsel to anyone accused of a crime who cannot afford an attorney. Michigan's public defense delivery is among the worst in the country because of its disparate structure due to overwhelming caseloads and insufficient funding. Do you support reforming Michigan's public defense system in order to meet our constitutional obligation to provide adequate legal counsel to indigent defendants?

6. Do you believe that speech on the internet deserves at least as much First Amendment protection as that afforded to books, newspapers and magazines?
7. The United States Supreme Court in *Graham v. Florida* recently declared it unconstitutional to impose a life sentence without the possibility of parole for non-homicide crimes committed while under the age of 18. Do you support abolishing life sentences without the possibility parole for juvenile offenders in Michigan?
8. Do you support requiring citizens to have a uniform national identification card (under programs called “Real ID”) which would be required to board an airplane, cross international borders, and for carrying out many other activities?
9. Do you support cities’ increasing practice of installing video cameras in public areas for the purpose of continuously recording the presence and activities of individuals?
10. Do you support amending civil rights laws to prohibit discrimination based upon sexual orientation and gender identity?

				Question 1	Question 2	Question 3	Question 4	Question 5	Question 6	Question 7	Question 8	Question 9	Question 10	RATING
ACLU Answer				Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	
District	Party	L Name	F Name											
7	D	Kathleen	Law	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	90%
9	GRN	Richard	Kuszmar	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	90%
19	D	Brenda	Abbey	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	90%
20	D	Robert	Jones	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	80%
21	D	Scott	Elliott	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	100%
22	D	Chuck	Fellows	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	100%
23	D	Gretchen	Whitmer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	100%
35	D	Roger	Dunigan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	100%
37	D	Bob	Carr	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	100%