
1978 Voters Guide

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It was prepared by the League of Women Voters Education Fund. The league is a national, nonpartisan organization established in 1920 to encourage informed citizen participation in government.

Its publication was made possible by contributions from Parke-Davis Co., Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Co. and the Michigan Bankers Association.

Biographical information and answers to questions were secured by letters from the league. The answers are in the candidates' own words. They have not been edited except for necessary cutting when replies exceeded the stated word limitation.

Publication of the statements is in the interest of public service and is not to be construed as an endorsement by the League of Women Voters or Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Partisan candidates are listed in the order in which their parties first registered as a Michigan political party. All others are in alphabetical order.

The league never supports or opposes any political party or candidate.

It does support or oppose issues; but league stands are never indicated in Voters Guides.

Absentee ballots

WHO CAN APPLY?

- Any registered voter—
1. who will be out-of-town all day.
 2. who is physically unable to go to the polls.
 3. who is 62 or older.
 4. who is an election worker.
 5. whose religion forbids voting on that day.
 6. who is confined in jail but not convicted.

WHERE AND WHEN

Apply to your township or city clerk by mail or in person by 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4.

WHAT IS RETURN DEADLINE?

8 p.m. election day. (Persons qualified to vote absentee may vote in person in the clerk's office until 2 p.m. election day.)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact your city or township clerk.

About the League . . .

The League of Women Voters welcomes new members. If you are a U.S. citizen of voting age, contact the league in your community or call state headquarters in Lansing at 1-517-494-5383.

In the Observer & Eccentric area, there are leagues in Birmingham-Bloomfield, Livonia, Northville-Plymouth-Canton-Novi, Rochester Area, Southfield-Lathrup Village, Troy and West Bloomfield-Farmington Area.

Voter service and educational activities of the league are paid for by contributions from the community to the tax-deductible arm of the league. If you wish to contribute, checks payable to LWV-US Education Fund may be mailed to League of Women Voters of Michigan, 202 Mill, Lansing, MI 48933.

U.S. SENATOR

VOTE FOR 1 6 YEAR TERM

CARL LEVIN

Democrat

Detroit

Occupation: Attorney

Age: 44

Candidates for the office of U.S. Senator were asked to summarize their biographies in 45 words, and to answer each question in 45 words. Answers are unedited except for length.

Education: BA, Swarthmore College; Harvard Law School

Background and Experience: Detroit City Council 1970-78 (president, 1974-78); Instructor at the U of D and WSU Law School; Advisory Committee of American Civil Liberties Union and the United Foundation.

ROBERT P. GRIFFIN

Republican

Traverse City - Long Lake Township, Grand Traverse County

Occupation: United States Senator

Age: 54

Education: Fordson High School, CMU and U of M (JD) Ann Arbor, Michigan

Background and Experience: 1966-78 - United States Senator - 12 years; 1956-66 - United States Representative - 10 years.

1. WHAT STEPS DO YOU RECOMMEND TO CURB INFLATION AND INCREASE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES?

1. Inflation: 1) Reduce dependence on foreign oil. 2) Strict anti-trust enforcement to increase price competition. 3) Reduce unwarranted governmental regulations and increase efficiency of governmental expenditures. Unemployment: 1) Incentives for private sector employment in areas of unemployment. 2) Support counter-cyclical and public works. 3) Support Humphrey-Hawkins. Employment will reduce inflation.

1. Fight inflation by curbing deficit government spending, expanding exports, increasing productivity, and enacting Griffin bill to "index" tax rates. Create jobs by providing tax incentives, like Steiger and Kemp-Roth bills, to stimulate investment and capital formation. Modified minimum wage would help inner city teenagers.

2. WHAT PROVISIONS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN A NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY?

2. 1) Conservation of oil achieved through incentives to use coal, to insulate, etc. 2) Development of new energy sources: solar, wind, wave, coal gasification, fusion, etc. 3) Increased development of domestic sources to reduce foreign dependence. 4) Evaluate price increases to prevent windfall profits.

2. Balanced emphasis on conservation and increased incentives for domestic oil, gas exploration and production, with greater research and investment for practical uses of alternative energy sources. Favor nuclear power under rigid safety controls and stronger emphasis on solar energy development.

3. WHAT DO YOU RECOMMEND TO IMPROVE THE FOREIGN TRADE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS?

3. 1) Energy program above. 2) Increased farm exports through reduced trade barriers in GATT. 3) Encourage location of plants such as Volkswagen in the U.S. 4) Encourage major trading partners to expand their own economies and employment to increase foreign demand. 5) Stabilize the value of U.S. dollar.

3. Curbs on U.S. government spending, deficits, taxation, to reduce domestic inflation, thus strengthen value of U.S. dollar abroad. Export expansion. Seek removal of foreign Non-Tariff Barriers, to increase American access to overseas markets. Increase domestic energy production, reduce import dependence. Selected marketing agreements.

GOVERNOR

VOTE FOR ONE 4 YEAR TERM

WILLIAM B. FITZGERALD

Democrat

Detroit

Age: 36

Occupation: State Senator/Attorney

Candidates for the office of governor were asked to summarize their biographies in 45 words, and to answer each question in 45 words. Answers are unedited except for length.

Education: JD Detroit College of Law; AB, WMU
Background and Experience: 2 terms in House of Representatives, 1 term state Senator; Majority Leader of the Senate; Chairman of Committee on Transportation; Member of the National Energy Task Force; Chairman of the Committee on Economic Development.

WILLIAM G. MILLIKEN

Republican

Traverse City

Age: 56

Occupation: Governor

Education: BA, Yale University

Background and Experience: Flew 50 combat missions with U.S. Army Air Corps in World War II; Former president, J.W. Milliken, Inc.; State Senator, 1961-64; Lieutenant Governor, 1965-68; Governor, 1969-present; Chairman, Midwest Governors' Conference, 1974; Chairman, Republican Governors' Association, 1972; Chairman, National Governors' Association, present.

1. WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE THE TWO MAJOR PROBLEMS FACING THE STATE? WHAT WOULD YOU PROPOSE AS SOLUTIONS?

1. The greatest challenge is economic development, expansion, and preservation of our revenue base. Without a strong economy, we will never have the revenue to meet our legitimate social bills. Another is the management of departments and programs. We must increase efficiency and accountability.

1. Providing every citizen a decent job. Controlling chemicals in modern society. I would continue and improve our strong business climate which has created 465,000 new jobs since January, 1975. Legislative approval of my toxic substance control package would mean major progress in controlling modern chemicals.

2. WHAT CHANGES, IF ANY, WOULD YOU SUPPORT TO LIMIT TAXES IN MICHIGAN? EXPLAIN.

2. I oppose the "tax-spend" syndrome, support tax limitations that limit excessive taxation, government spending, and do not interfere with government's responsibility to provide essential services. Support budget stabilization programs that limit spending, direct money into a state "savings account" for use in bad years.

2. Before supporting any limit, I would have to be assured it would not hamper our ability to meet our responsibilities in such basic areas as mental health, education and law enforcement. A limit on future tax growth which meets those conditions could well be appropriate.

3. WHAT PROPOSALS WOULD YOU SUPPORT TO DEVELOP AND IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS IN MICHIGAN?

3. Michigan must provide an outstanding highway system for its motorists, while realizing that bus systems, commuter rail and dial-a-ride programs fill a legitimate need. I would support a comprehensive transportation program that both recognized the needs and balances the demands for limited funds.

3. I remain strongly committed to passage of a comprehensive transportation package. The package now before the legislature would upgrade our roads, bridges, railroads, water transportation and public transportation facilities. This proposal has received strong bipartisan support in the Legislature. It is vital to Michigan's future.

4. WHAT STEPS DO YOU AD- VOCATE TO ASSURE CON- SERVATION OF ESSENTIAL LANDS?

4. The development of a mechanism for the identification of essential lands across the state, coupled with a usage plan developed jointly by state and local officials on a site by site basis to determine conservation methods and local economic impact.

4. I have supported essential lands conservation legislation since 1972. Such legislation should provide for orderly growth and development, and for protection of significant land-based industries, including agriculture, recreation, forestry and mining. Local governments must play a key role in the identification of essential land areas.

5. WHAT CHANGES, IF ANY, WOULD YOU ADVOCATE IN MICHIGAN'S AID TO EDUCATION FORMULA?

5. Support a reduction in the reliance on property taxes and a greater assumption of costs by the State's general fund, providing greater equity in per pupil expenditures, and elimination of the public policy to provide a quality education only in a high tax base community.

5. Our basic school aid formula adjusts equitably to programs offered and growth or decline in enrollment. Greater attention must be given, however, to insuring quality education through such means as statewide testing and assessment programs. We must insure that our children master basic skills.