

STATE SENATE

4 YEAR TERM VOTE FOR ONE

Issues
Candidates for State Senate were asked to respond to each question in 75 words.



The candidates
Candidates for State Senate were asked to summarize their biographies in 75 words.



13TH DISTRICT

ROBERT BOYD Democrat, 32

Education: Detroit College of Law, J.D.; Michigan State University, B.A.; also attended Macomb Community College and Wayne State University.
Background: Prior hospital volunteer, paramedic. Served as a democratic precinct delegate in Sterling Heights. Six years in the United States Marine Corps Reserve, honorable discharge and recipient of the Good Conduct Medal. Summer Intern Washington D.C. Public Defender's Office. Student attorney, Detroit Macombsemer Clinic. Occupation: Currently a practicing attorney.

MICHAEL J. BOUCHARD Republican

Education: Michigan State University, B.A., Criminal Justice and Police Administration, Honors Student, Mid-Michigan Law Enforcement Center, Valedictorian.
Occupation: Michigan State Senator, Assistant President Pro-Tempore.
Background: Police Officer for twelve years - decorated nine times in line of duty by Bloomfield Township. Small Business Owner. Elected to Davenport Village Council, 1988 - 1990 and served as President Pro-Tempore, and two terms as President. Elected to State House of Representatives, 1990. Elected to State Senate, 1991.

HENRY FRERIKS Liberarians - DID NOT RESPOND

14TH DISTRICT

GARY C. PETERS Democrat, 33

Education: Alma College, B.A., Political Science; University of Detroit, M.B.A., Finance; Wayne State Law School, J.D.
Occupation: Vice President, Investments, PaineWebber Inc.
Background: Instructor, Strategic Planning, Oakland University; Instructor, Finance and Business Economics, Wayne State; Arbitrator, New York Stock Exchange; Director, Common Cause; Delegate, State Central Committee, Michigan Democratic Party; Councilman, Rochester Hills City Council; Member, Zoning Board of Appeals, Commissioner, Point Creek Township; Environmental Policy Advisory, SEMCOG; Communications Officer, U.S. Navy Reserve.

MICHAEL DAVID WARREN, JR. Republican, 38

Education: University of Michigan Law School, J.D., cum laude; Wayne State University, B.A., honors history.
Occupation: Judicial Clerk for Justice Dorothy Comstock Pily of the Michigan Supreme Court (attorney).
Background: I am a life long resident of Michigan. With my wife Shannon, I am a volunteer youth minister at St. Ann church. I am currently working on teaching legal issues with Justice Pily before the Michigan Supreme Court.

RICHARD QACH Liberarians, 67

Education: B.S. in Physics, University of Michigan 1948.
Occupation: Homemaker since 1963.
Background: Married to Bernice who is retiring from Special Education teaching. We have three children and three grandchildren. I am disappointed with the election turn that our country is taking and would like to do something about it. I would like to see a return to the Bill of Rights.

Michigan's State Senators serve in the upper house of the legislature. They must be at least 21 years of age, a citizen of the United States, a registered voter in the district they represent and never been convicted of a felony. They can not have any employment with the United States government, state government or local government and dual office holding is prohibited. There are five State Senators elected in Oakland County. The salary is \$47,728.

FUNDING SCHOOLS

Some predictions for the financing of education in Michigan indicate a shortfall of funds by the 1996-97 school year. How would you address future funding for Michigan schools?

What the legislature did by eliminating public school funding without a back up plan was inexcusable. Voters were forced to choose between two proposals, that most people thought were bad choices. The legislature did not place enough focus on what the parents, students and teachers desire; strong quality public schools. If future funding is needed, proposal A failed. I will look to the voters, as opposed to the special interest groups for equitable funding solution.

It is critical for our future that educational funding remains a top priority in Michigan. Recent changes to funding formulas have put some strong guarantees on sound funding levels. If revenue shortfalls occur in the future, I would support earmarking a greater contribution from the general fund for education to maintain that priority commitment.

I strongly believe state government has a commitment to fully fund local schools. After the passage of Proposal A, the state will have a difficult time raising additional revenue due to constitutional limitations. Only two options are available: increased local taxes or state budget reductions in other areas. Of these, I strongly favor the reauthorization of state spending to reflect greater support of public education. A top to bottom analysis of all budgets is necessary.

We need to provide our children with the very best education in the world. Unfortunately, the current education debate has lost focus of the purpose of our schools. Instead, we must bring education back to the basics: educating our children. We need to strengthen our core curriculum and improve the quality of schools by any means that work. Funding shortfalls should be addressed by cutting wasteful spending and improving the efficiency of our schools.

Proposal "A" raises funds for education by two taxes that will fall during a recession - the real estate transfer tax and the sales tax. This is very poor planning. The property tax, however painful, at least provided a steady flow of funds. I would return the schools to the local communities.

LAND USE PLAN

What is your view of the legislature adopting a state-wide Land Use plan that would require developers to have infrastructure and public services in place concurrent with development?

Development is a sign of an upward moving economy and a prosperous state. However, rapid development without an adequate and necessary infrastructure, can debilitate an otherwise prosperous and aggressive development plan. This state must ensure that local communities and the state are not overly burdened by a project that is only partially complete. Yet, we must ensure that development is not halted by placing unreasonable requirements on developers.

Regional coordination and cooperation are extremely important in the development and expansion of infrastructure and public services. However, land use and zoning issues have always been and should continue to be issues best handled at the local level.

I support legislation requiring developers to provide infrastructure and public services concurrent with development projects. I would also encourage a regional approach to land use planning. This type of planning would both reduce urban sprawl and reduce development costs. These activities would have the effect of minimizing costs to local areas and ease the tax burden on their citizens.

With regard to both population and environment, Michigan is blessed with one of the most varied states in the nation. We possess forests and dunes, Great Lakes and inland lakes, sprawling cities and cozy towns. Because the dynamics of development are so varied, any statewide Land Use plan would be unable to adjust to local needs. Instead, we should entrust development to locally accountable authorities who are best able to respond to their local conditions.

This should remain under local control.

COMMITTEES

If elected to the State Senate on which committees would you like to serve and why?

The foundation to a great state is a strong educational system, a zero tolerance for crime and a strong labor force. On the Education Committee I can fight for strong public schools and work with teachers instead of against them. On the Criminal Law and Corrections Committee, I can fight to keep violent offenders in prison. On labor, I would be able to work with the people and issues that confront everyday working Michigan residents.

I have had many challenging and rewarding committee assignments in both the Senate and the House. I have been assigned to both Technology/Energy and Corporations/Economic Development. These committees allow me involvement in linking the opportunities of technology to educational and business communities. I was also recently appointed to Appropriations, where hard decisions are made on how taxpayer dollars are spent. I hope to bring strong fiscal responsibility to that task.

Senate Appropriations, Senate Finance, and Local Government and Urban Development. These committees would provide me the greatest opportunity to use my financial background in helping the people in the 14th district. They would allow me to effectively fight for education funding, a reauthorization of state spending, and to install tax fairness for all people.

Because I believe Lansing must be fiscally responsible and should lower taxes, I wish to serve on either the Appropriations or Finance Committees. As a judicial clerk with Justice Dorothy Comstock Riley, my experience and knowledge would be of great use on the Judiciary Committee. Finally, because I believe we must refocus our educational establishment to provide our children with the very best possible education, I wish to serve on the Education Committee.

Any committees that can cut spending and reduce controls over our lives and our business.