

Pickering

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Before I can say how I would vote on a new equal rights amendment, I would have to thoroughly review the implications of this new proposal. I am generally in favor of equal rights for all individuals. I feel it is a crime when an employer has two different employees, one male, and one female, both of the same background, qualifications and doing the same job, but the male is paid 25 percent more. I feel that all individuals of the same qualifications should have the same opportunity no matter what color, sex, or religion.

Q-Why did you agree/disagree with the six-month, 1-percent increase in the state personal income tax voted in last May?

The vote in Michigan's Senate last May was a sham. Unfortunately, three senators gave into the pressure on the unpredicted fifth vote. The citizens of Michigan were opposed to the temporary tax increase. Every citizen must live within its income. A business, if it loses money too long, goes out of business. We must operate the government like a business and spend according to income. Programs in Michigan should have been reduced due to the state's economic climate. Government has grown to be too big, when one out of six of us is employed by government. Ways must be found to make gov-

ernment more efficient. Today's state government is wasteful and inefficient.

While a welfare program is a necessity, there should be a rollback of benefit levels at least equal to those of surrounding states, to encourage those receiving benefits to better themselves and take themselves off public assistance. Creating an environment where the individual is encouraged off the welfare rolls will make them feel better about themselves.

Cuts should have been made to achieve a "bare bone" budget for the state. When this was accomplished, I could have supported a slight income tax increase to balance the budget. It is generally wrong to ask the people of Michigan to pay more taxes when they are having such a difficult time just making ends meet.

Q-Our state and federal road system has reached maturity in the last few years and rapidly is deteriorating. What programs should be implemented to restore the roads?

Michigan needs to act to repair our highways and roads. There are numerous chuck holes that become hazardous. Our highways provide a vital link to our great tourism industry that we have. If our highways continue to deteriorate, the tourism dollar will go elsewhere, and Michigan needs this industry. Business in Michigan also relies on our highway system. Ways must be found to properly maintain our road system.

Q-SEMTA has experienced a 20-percent cut in its operating budget and expects more cuts as federal aid shrivels. How should the public transit operating funds question be addressed?

A viable public transportation system is important to our community. Many people rely on SEMTA for their means of travel. Primarily, this transportation system should be paid for by the regions that use the system. However, the public transportation system the metro-Detroit area has is important to the other regions of the state as well, so the state should assist in supporting this system.

Q-Do you support a) the "human life amendment" prohibiting abortion? b) Medicaid funding of abortions?

The human life amendment does not allow for abortions, basically, under any circumstances. This I could not support, as under certain circumstances I see a need for abortion.

If Medicaid-funded abortions were allowed, it is my feeling that those eligible for Medicaid would use the system as a form of birth control, which it is not. Therefore, I oppose this funding.

Q-Utility rates have been adjusted automatically for fuel price changes. How do you feel about

requiring state Public Service Commission approval of such rate changes?

The Public Service Commission has approved the system used to have utility rates adjusted automatically for fuel price changes. The Public Service Commission exists for a reason, i.e., utility companies are a monopoly. I feel it is their duty to review all increases, to make sure they are justified, whether they are fuel price adjustments or not.

Q-The State Troopers Association is seeking a constitutional amendment to guarantee job levels and freeze ranks. How would you vote, and why?

The citizens of Michigan will have the opportunity to fully review this proposal between now and the November election, as it is on the ballot in November. At this time, I have not had the opportunity to review the actual language of the amendment, so any opinion at this point would be premature. Generally, I believe that there are no guarantees in life.

"The vote in Michigan's Senate last May (on state income tax) was a sham. Unfortunately, three senators gave into the pressure on the unpredicted fifth vote."

—David Pickering

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