

## **2010 Questions for Primary Candidates for Michigan's Governor From the Lone Tree Council - Bernero**

The Lone Tree Council has been advocating for positive environmental activities from the State of Michigan, as well as many other organizations, since its beginning more than 30 years ago. Our members and friends would like to make the best possible decision in the Primary Election on August 3, 2010. We are requesting that each candidate for governor answer this questionnaire to help our members make this important decision. We will evaluate the responses by July 20 and announce our decision to endorse a candidate within one week after July 20, 2010.

Please e-mail your response to [pat3race4@gmail.com](mailto:pat3race4@gmail.com) by July 20, 2010. Clarifications about individual questions go to Terry Miller 989-686-6386.

Please answer each question with a Yes or No answer if possible. Explanations should be no more than three sentences.

### **Question #1**

Although the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has taken the lead on addressing the cleanup of the Tittabawassee and Saginaw Rivers, Michigan is very involved through the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE).

Would you as governor support a timely, comprehensive clean-up and restoration of the Tittabawassee and Saginaw Rivers and accompanying floodplains?

X Yes \_\_\_ No

Cleaning up these and other rivers across the state is of critical importance to water quality, public health, recreation and our overall economy. This will be a top priority of my administration, as it has been during my tenure as Mayor of Lansing.

### **Question #2**

Are you committed to preventing the migration of contaminants downstream into Saginaw Bay, the source of drinking water for 34,000 people, a commercial fishery, and recreational attraction, that supports the Great Lakes Bay Region?

X Yes \_\_\_ No

Protecting our water resources is essential for all the reasons listed above.

### **Question #3**

Water withdrawal issues will increasingly be part of our future. Michigan law is unclear about the designation of ground water as being held in the public trust.

As governor, would you support legislation that makes both surface and ground water to be in the public trust?

X Yes \_\_\_ No

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Protecting Michigan's groundwater is vitally important to the health of our citizens and our economy.

### **Question #4**

Low income and minority communities bear too large a burden from pollution and do not receive equal protection from exposure. Federal agencies are mandated to consider these disproportional impacts but Michigan law does not.

As governor, would you support legislation and use executive authority to make environmental justice part of Michigan's decision making?

X Yes \_\_\_ No

Many of our most pressing environmental problems are concentrated in urban areas, which results in disproportionate impacts on low-income and minority citizens. My administration will be a leader in environmental justice.

### **Question #5**

As governor, would you support removing "waste gasification, tire incineration, and other forms of energy production that include the use of fossil fuels" from the legal definition of renewable energy that is set forth in the Renewable Portfolio Standard of 2008?

X Yes \_\_\_ No

The state's RPS should be strictly limited to bonafide renewable fuels that are not based on fossil fuels.

### **Question #6**

As governor, would you support increasing the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) for 2015 to 20%, and increasing the RPS each year after to reach 25% by 2025?

X Yes \_\_\_ No Explain

As Mayor of the City of Lansing, I established the city's first Renewable Portfolio Standard, setting an ambitious goal of a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. I will bring this same priority to the State Capitol.

### **Question #7**

As governor, would you support a moratorium on new coal plants and the development of a plan to phase out existing coal plants by 2030?

X Yes \_\_\_ No

We need to emphasize energy conservation to reduce demand and the aggressive adoption of alternative energy sources that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. When new

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baseload power generation is needed, I strongly oppose new coal plants. In Lansing, our Board of Water and Light plans to build a natural gas-fired plant that will have 50% lower carbon and toxic emissions than coal.

### **Question #8**

As governor, would you strongly support Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) efforts to require Michigan's public utilities to implement Feed-in Tariff (FIT) plans to support distributed, small-scale, electric power generation?

X Yes \_\_\_ No Explain

This is an important strategy that provides much-needed economic incentives for individuals and businesses to deploy alternative energy technologies like solar panels and wind turbines.

### **Question #9**

As governor, would you support the Great Lakes Wind Council proposal to install Five 1GW Wind Farms six miles off-shore?

X Yes \_\_\_ No

While we need to be sensitive to local concerns about the siting of wind turbines in the Great Lakes and potential environmental impacts, I believe these issues can be addressed so we can move forward to maximize our use of wind power.

### **Question #10**

As governor, would you work to grant right-of-way to the Interstate Traveler Company's project for high speed elevated public transit?

X Yes \_\_\_ No Explain

I would support the right-of-way grants provided that ITC makes a strong business case for their project and passes muster as to their financial viability and management capabilities for a project of this scale.

Thank you for your time in answering these questions and the commitment to the citizens of Michigan that your candidacy demonstrates.