

League of Women Voters of Michigan
VOTER GUIDE - Tuesday, AUGUST 3, 2010, PRIMARY Election
Michigan STATE SENATE – District 7

In a Primary election, you must choose which political party's primary to vote in and vote for only candidates of that party for all offices.

5 Candidates for ONE 4-year term – 4 REPUBLICANS, 1 DEMOCRAT

QUESTION 1 (100 Words or less): Provide biographical information, including your qualifications for this office and the reasons you are running.	QUESTION 2 (100 Words or less): What are your state budget spending priorities and how would you adjust revenue and expenses to support those priorities?	QUESTION 3 (100 Words or less): What are your top two other priorities, why did you select them, and what actions would you take regarding them?
--	---	--

PATRICK J. COLBECK, REPUBLICAN – Website: www.FixingMichigan.com

Since 2004, I have been a self-employed management consultant working with Fortune 500 companies spanning multiple industries as well as small businesses. I understand what is necessary to run efficient and effective organizations. Prior to my management career, I had a successful career as an Aerospace Engineer culminating in the design of several systems in operation aboard the International Space Station. We need critical thinkers in Lansing who are able to distill complex problems into simple solutions. We need bold, principled leadership that unifies our citizens under the common goal of bringing jobs back to Michigan.

My #1 state budget spending priority is education. In order to balance the budget, I would advocate spending cuts through the consolidation of administrative services and benefits across the State of Michigan's 18 unique departments. Health care costs in particular need to be reduced. In addition, I would pursue a variable cost structure for State services whereby departmental expenditures are explicitly tied to the number of citizens or businesses served by each department. I would also eliminate special-interest tax exemptions and level the playing field. Under no circumstance would I advocate or support an increase in the overall tax rate.

My #1 priority overall is to exchange Michigan's #1 ranking in unemployment rate with a #1 ranking in job growth rate. The accomplishment of this objective requires a fresh way of looking at job providers as customers not piggy banks. We need to consolidate and simplify the taxes, fees, and forms that burden job providers and drain resources that could otherwise be used to grow their business and provide additional jobs.

My #2 priority overall is to reduce the cost of health care for employers and citizens in Michigan through the promotion of Health Savings Accounts. More information at www.FixingMichigan.com.

ABE A. MUNFAKH, REPUBLICAN – Website: www.abe4michigan.org

Abe is a very conservative retired businessman. As the President of an engineering company, he created 121 jobs before he retired in 2004. He has a BS in Civil Engineering, management skills and experience. Married, father of two, and grandfather of three, he has served as Plymouth Township Trustee for 12 years, Schoolcraft College Foundation President, Plymouth Foundation, and ACC Chairman. He has received several awards of recognition, including special Congressional Recognition by Congressman McCotter. Abe is conservative, pro-life, a supporter of the Second Amendment, smart and dedicated.

Jobs are job one. I propose to create jobs by reducing taxes. Spending will be reduced to meet revenue. I propose zero based budgeting, elimination of all fraud, and to reduce red tape, thus creating jobs. We will streamline schools and government operations to insure that public employees receive no pay higher than in the private sector.

- 1) Reduce taxes by eliminating the Michigan Business Tax and the Personal Property Tax.
- 2) Improve education, reduce the size of Michigan Government, and create a transparent government where all department expenditures are shown in detail on the internet.

Michigan STATE SENATE – District 7 (Continued)

QUESTION 1 (100 Words or less): Provide biographical information, including your qualifications for this office and the reasons you are running.	QUESTION 2 (100 Words or less): What are your state budget spending priorities and how would you adjust revenue and expenses to support those priorities?	QUESTION 3 (100 Words or less): What are your top two other priorities, why did you select them, and what actions would you take regarding them?
DAN OSTERMAN, REPUBLICAN – Website: www.ostermanforsenate.com		
Married, 4 Children, 2 Grandchildren Former Small Business owner Resident of Van Buren Township Engineer 35-year veteran of the auto industry Former President of the Canton Jaycees Elected member of the 11th Congressional District Republican Committee	Government spending priority should be education. Education expenses need to be privatized and consolidated. This will provide the benefits of "economy of scale" and reduce costs.	Top priorities would be passage of a school voucher system and passage of a "Right to Work" law. A voucher system provides parental choice for education and competition among all schools. Right-to-Work stimulates job growth by attracting business to the state and choice to the worker.
DEBORAH WHYMAN, REPUBLICAN DID NOT REPLY IN TIME FOR INCLUSION		
KATHLEEN LAW, DEMOCRAT DID NOT REPLY IN TIME FOR INCLUSION		

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan national organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party. Candidate responses are included as submitted and have not been edited except in cases where the replies have exceeded the stated word limitations. **Spelling and Grammar were not corrected.** The inclusion of candidates' statements and opinions is solely in the interest of public service and in no way is to be construed as an endorsement by the League of Women Voters which takes no responsibility for any views or facts stated by the candidates.