

NEWSBRIEFS

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ELECTIONS SPECIAL ISSUE

The Snyder Higher Education Solution: Move From State Funding To Student-Debt Funding

By Charles Parrish
AAUP-AFT President

The election this November is especially important to everyone who is a member of the Wayne State community. States have been under pressure to expand expenditures on Medicaid and Corrections and to hold down costs in other policy areas. This has been especially pronounced in MI, one of only five states where the Corrections budget is higher than the Higher Education budget.

Under Governor Rick Snyder, the Legislature has adopted a new model for financing higher education. We have moved from a state-revenue model of higher education funding to a student-debt funding model. A

decade ago, Wayne State University got about 65% of its funding from the State of Michigan and 25% or so from tuition. Today, that ratio is reversed: we get about 25% from the State and 65% from student tuition. Governor Snyder has dramatically cut business taxes and, in effect, raised taxes on middle and working class families who struggle to send their sons and daughters to Michigan universities and colleges.

The tuition revenue on which our University primarily depends comes from a combination of federal need-based Pell Grants and student debt. The underfunding of Wayne State University has reached the point that we are operating on a state budget that in real dollars is lower than it was over a decade ago.

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Governor Snyder says in one of his campaign ads that his policies are good for Michigan and if the voters don't feel it yet, they soon will. The Governor doesn't need to worry, we have felt the impact of his policies for all four years of his term, and our students feel the weight of his cuts every time they apply for a loan to pay the higher tuition costs needed to keep Wayne State University's doors open. The Snyder higher education approach cannot begin to be reversed without changing governors.

Our Union has endorsed Mark Schauer for Governor. His election will be good for the State and good for Wayne State University.

THE ELECTIONS SPECIAL ISSUE

This is the first special issue of Newsbriefs, and it is dedicated to the 2014 November general elections. On pages 2 and 3, we have listed the **Democratic** and **Republican** candidates running for statewide races, as well as other key races relevant to Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Washtenaw counties. Our effort with this special issue is to provide some of the reasons for why we support certain candidates and not others. On page 4, is our list of endorsements, presented as a mock ballot. As always, what guides our choices in these elections is our concern for a stronger University, region and State. We hope you find this guide helpful. – Editor, H. Oshagan

2014 MICHIGAN ELECTIONS

BALLOT PROPOSALS

- PROPOSAL 1: Designate wolf as game for hunting purposes and authorize the first wolf hunting season.
- PROPOSAL 2: Allow the Natural Resources Commission to directly designate species as game for hunting.

MI SUPREME COURT

JUDGE DEBORAH THOMAS

Judge Thomas began her legal career with Oakland County Legal Aid. She has assisted with the UAW Legal Service Plan and was elected to the Third Circuit Court of Wayne County. Her many honors include 2010 Torch Bearer of Justice Award from Black Women Lawyers Association of MI, 2009 Champion of the Disabled Award from National Lawyers Guild MI Detroit Chapter, 2008 Martin Luther King Spirit of Detroit Award.

JUDGE WILLIAM MURPHY

Judge Murphy was selected Chief Judge of the MI Court of Appeals in 2009. He will continue his strong track record of service on the Supreme Court, upholding the law and delivering justice for MI citizens. Prior to joining the Court, he was a member of the East Grand Rapids City Commission, law clerk for the MI Court of Appeals, and worked as an attorney in private practice for 17 years. He received his law degree from WSU, cum laude.

RICHARD BERNSTEIN

A former chair of the WSU Board of Governors, Richard Bernstein has won landmark cases while running the Public Services division of the Sam Bernstein Law Firm, including several in which he successfully represented people with disabilities against organizations violating the Americans with Disabilities Act. He has been awarded Leader in Law by MI Lawyers Weekly, and the John W. Cummiskey Pro Bono Award from the State Bar of Michigan.

GOVERNOR



MARK SCHAUER



LISA BROWN



RICK SNYDER



BRIAN CALLEY

- Education is top budget priority. Committed to reverse the \$1b Snyder cuts in education.
- Will grow the economy by restoring EITC, the Homestead Property Tax, and close corporate tax loopholes that ship jobs overseas.
- Will repeal "Right-to-Work" legislation.
- Supports marriage for same-sex couples.
- In the MI House of Representatives, Lisa Brown fought for education, health coverage for children with autism, environmental protections, and transparency in government.

- Cut over \$1b from education, including a 15% cut to higher education with the highest cuts going to Wayne State.
- Raised taxes on middle class, gave \$1.8b tax break to corporations.
- Signed so-called "Right-to-Work" legislation.
- Refused to recognize same-sex marriages or benefits to married, same-sex couples.
- Brian Calley worked to eliminate job security and due process for K-12 educators.

SECRETARY of STATE



GODFREY DILLARD



RUTH JOHNSON

- Dedicated to reducing costs and fees for all licensing and vehicle registrations.
- Committed to protecting private information on Driver's Licenses.
- Will decrease waittime at the SoS offices.

- Changed the voter registration form without authorization, causing voter confusion and anger.
- Actively delayed investigation of Jase Bolger's election fraud case.

WSU BOARD of GOVERNORS



DANA THOMPSON

- Clinical prof. of law, Director, UM Law School's Entrepreneurship Clinic.
- Directed WSU Law School's Small Business and Nonprofit Clinic, and Damon J. Keith Law Collection of African American Legal History.
- Understands the opportunities WSU can bring to the city of Detroit and the communities we serve.



MARILYN KELLY

- WSU Law School's Distinguished Jurist in Residence.
- Retired Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court.
- Committed to affordable, quality education for WSU students.
- Will work to strengthen academic and research programs, and educational opportunities to all.



PAMELA PUGH SMITH

- Public Health doctorate from UM.
- Worked in organizations and personally to improve lives of children and families.
- Will fight to ensure public school children have equal access to educators that are respected, and school environments that support their health and learning.



CASANDRA ULBRICH

- VP for College Advancement and Community Relations, Macomb Community College.
- First generation college graduate, higher education administrator, state policy leader, knows value of a quality education.
- Will be a strong voice in Lansing to fight for our schools.

WSU AAUP-AFT VOTING GUIDE

U.S. SENATOR



GARY PETERS

- Supports marriage equality, Employment Non-Discrimination Act, equal pay for equal work.
- Led efforts to protect the Great Lakes watershed from contamination, and strong supporter of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.
- Helped author America COMPETES Act to invest in STEM education and early education programs like Head Start.



TERRY LYNN LAND

- Opposes marriage equality and equal pay for equal work.
- Supports policies to protect industrial polluters like Koch Carbon and Marathon Oil, denying the impact that burning coal and oil have on our communities.
- Has no stated policy on public education on her website or campaign materials.

ATTORNEY GENERAL



MARK TOTTON

- Champions prisoner re-entry programs preparing prisoners to transition back to society as working, law-abiding citizens.
- Will repeal Schuette's drug immunity law (made MI only state giving drug companies immunity when products harm/kill patients).
- Will demand accountability from predatory lenders to recover losses for victims.



BILL SCHUETTE

- Undermined legislation and court rulings he personally opposed, including the MI Medical Marijuana Act, U.S. Supreme Court's ruling against MI's mandatory sentencing law, and federal judge's ruling against MI's ban on same-sex marriage.
- Stayed silent as 15 state attorneys general sued Standard & Poor's for misrepresenting bond ratings in the financial crisis.

U.S. CONGRESS



DISTRICT 7

PAM BYRNES

- Wants Congress to take a 10% pay cut, and end unnecessary perks.
- Supports investing in higher education to make it affordable for everyone.
- Will fight to get federal transportation dollars for MI.



DISTRICT 8

ERIC SCHERTZING

- Supports access to quality preschool and affordable college.
- Established the Ingham County Land Bank to help struggling neighborhoods develop, and families avoid foreclosure.
- Defends social security and medicare for seniors.



DISTRICT 9

SANDER LEVIN

- Reformed laws to give state employees right to bargain.
- Elected to Congress in 1982.
- Led the battle to oppose Bush's efforts to privatize social security.
- Led effort to add \$2b to American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.



DISTRICT 10

CHUCK STADLER

- Successful accountant, former Petty Officer in the U.S. Navy.
- Pro-Life, Pro-Marriage Equality, and for equal pay for equal work.
- Supports raising minimum wage, and extending unemployment benefits, particularly for veterans.



DISTRICT 11

BOBBY MCKENZIE

- Experienced in national and international security, humanitarian intervention and refugee crisis.
- Supports investing in education, raising minimum wage, equal pay for equal work, and protecting natural resources.
- Wants to ensure veterans have access to healthcare, education, and job training.



DISTRICT 12

DEBBIE DINGELL

- Chair of the WSU Board of Governors.
- Recognized national advocate for women and children.
- Committed to lifelong education system with access to higher education and job re-training.
- Will ensure education professionals have say in policies to prepare students for the future.



DISTRICT 13

JOHN CONYERS

- Second most senior member of the House, founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus.
- Accomplishments include Violence Against Women Act, Martin Luther King Holiday Act, Alcohol Warning Label Act.
- Promotes economic development in SE MI, justice and civil rights for all Americans.



DISTRICT 14

BRENDA LAWRENCE

- Over 12 years as the Mayor of Southfield, a city of 72,000 residents.
- Southfield has remained inclusive and economically strong.
- Priorities include increasing minimum wage, supporting student loan bailout and paid sick leave.

WSU AAUP-AFT 2014 ELECTIONS BALLOT GUIDE

STATE	
GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR Vote for not more than 1	
Rick Snyder	Republican
Brian Nelson Calley	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Schauer	Democratic
Lisa Brown	
SECRETARY OF STATE Vote for not more than 1	
Ruth Johnson	Republican
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Godfrey Dillard	Democratic
ATTORNEY GENERAL Vote for not more than 1	
Bill Schuette	Republican
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Totten	Democratic
CONGRESSIONAL	
UNITED STATES SENATOR Vote for not more than 1	
Terry Lynn Land	Republican
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gary Peters	Democratic
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS Vote for not more than 1 <i>(Your ballot will show candidates from your district only)</i>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pam Byrnes	Democratic Dist. 7
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Schertzing	Democratic Dist. 8
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sander Levin	Democratic Dist. 9
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chuck Stadler	Democratic Dist. 10
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bobby McKenzie	Democratic Dist. 11
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Debbie Dingell	Democratic Dist. 12
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Conyers	Democratic Dist. 13
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brenda Lawrence	Democratic Dist. 14

STATE BOARDS	
MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Vote for not more than 2	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pamela Pugh Smith	Democratic
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Casandra E. Ulbrich	Democratic
REGENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN Vote for not more than 2	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Behm	Democratic
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathy White	Democratic
TRUSTEE OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Vote for not more than 2	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Faylene Owen	Democratic
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George J. Perles	Democratic
GOVERNOR OF WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY Vote for not more than 2	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marilyn Kelly	Democratic
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dana Alicia Thompson	Democratic
NONPARTISAN SECTION	
JUDICIAL	
JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT 8 Year Term Vote for not more than 2	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard Bernstein	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Murphy	
JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT Incumbent Position Partial Term Ending 01/01/2017 Vote for not more than 1	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deborah A. Thomas	

Note: This is a sample ballot.

Your actual ballot will list candidates from other parties (e.g. Libertarian), and will vary depending on your voting district.

REMEMBER

OCTOBER 6, 2014

Register to Vote

Last day to register. Check your status:
Michigan.gov/vote

NOVEMBER 4, 2014

Election Day. VOTE!

It's a Tuesday.
Polls open 7.00a - 8.00p

