

Jeffrey Neilson,  
Republican,  
20th District



Dear Michigan House candidate,

The Michigan Campaign Finance Network is a nonprofit nonpartisan organization based in Lansing. Our mission is to shine a light on the role of money in state politics. As reform efforts gain more and more support from the public, we are asking candidates for the Michigan House to answer the following questions about where they stand. Replies will be shared with the public and local media.

**What To Do With Responses:** Responses can be emailed to **Craig Mauger**, MCFN's executive director, at [craig@mcfn.org](mailto:craig@mcfn.org) or can be sent standard mail to him at the Michigan Campaign Finance Network, 600 W. St. Joseph, Suite 3G, Lansing Michigan, 48933.

\*Additional comments can written on the back of this page or added in the email.

**Our questions:**

1. Do you believe the role money is playing in our state's political system is a problem that deserves legislative attention? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO  EXCEPT AS TO MATTERS OF DISCLOSURE + TRANSPARENCY
2. Do you believe donors paying for so-called "issue ads" that don't expressly advocate for the election or defeat of a candidate should have to be disclosed? YES  NO \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you believe Michigan lawmakers should have to file personal financial disclosures to combat potential conflicts of interest as lawmakers do in 47 other states? YES  NO \_\_\_\_\_ LIMITED TO ASSOCIATIONS WITH ORGANIZATIONS WHERE FINANCIAL INTEREST EXCEEDS CERTAIN CRITERIA
4. "Super PACs" can take unlimited contributions but are supposed to act independently of the candidates they support. Should state candidates be able to participate in fundraisers for "Super PACs" that support them? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ I believe the term "participate" requires more clarification. Mere "attendance" should be okay. Raising \$ for Super PAC should be prohibited.
5. Should lobbyists have to disclose all their spending for food and beverage hospitality for state lawmakers and administrative officials and identify the beneficiaries of that hospitality from the first \$1 they spend? YES  NO \_\_\_\_\_
6. Currently, lobbyists can buy gifts for state lawmakers valued at less than \$58. Should lobbyists be able to purchase gifts for state officials? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_
7. Do you believe all donations to candidates should be disclosed and reported in advance of election dates? YES  NO \_\_\_\_\_
8. Do you agree with the U.S. Supreme Court's *Citizens United* ruling? YES  NO \_\_\_\_\_
9. If you are elected and start a nonprofit to help pay officeholder-related expenses, support political advocacy or to make charitable contributions, will you disclose your donors? YES  NO \_\_\_\_\_

\* Question 6 Note: "I would not prohibit gifts that are directly connected with a Holiday such as Christmas if relatively nominal in value. I will not accept gifts other than food related items to be shared with office staff."