

Robert Townsend,
Democrat,
97th District



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Michigan House
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Democrat

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 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 be 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
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
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
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