

Terry Sabo,
Democrat,
92nd 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 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
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

independent of a candidate; consequently, a candidate should have no interaction with a "Super PAC" supporting them.

5. Question 5

- a. 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
 - Full disclosure is critical for a fair and just democracy. Even the smallest of spending by lobbyists needs to be disclosed.

6. Question 6

- a. Currently, lobbyists can buy gifts for state lawmakers valued at at less than \$58. Should lobbyists be able to purchase gifts for the state officials?
- No
 - Because gifts, big or small, whether directly or not, affect the way politicians vote and what they value. This further disenfranchises the voters of Michigan.

7. Question 7

- a. Do you believe all donations to candidates should be disclosed and reported in advance of election dates?
- Yes
 - This is a major to stop corruption and disclosing it adds to the layers to end corruption and fix the political system.

8. Question 8

- a. Do you agree with the U.S. Supreme Court's *Citizens United* ruling?
- No
 - Not in the slightest, it takes the average person's voice in politics out of the equation. It needs to be overturned, and I would work to help make it happen.

9. Question 9

- a. If you were elected and start a nonprofit to help pay for officeholder-related expenses eg, support political advocacy or to make charitable contributions, will

you disclose your donations?

Michigan Campaign Finance Network Questionnaire

Answers by Terry J. Sabo, Democratic candidate for the Michigan 92nd State House District

1. Question 1

- a. Do you believe the role money is playing in our state's political system is a problem that deserves legislative attention?
 - i. Yes
 - ii. Money in politics is a huge issue for me personally and for the state as well. The influx of secret money is one of the major reasons why Michigan has become one of the worst governed states in America.

2. Question 2

- a. 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 potential conflicts interest
 - i. Yes
 - ii. I not only believe that all money in politics needs to be disclosed; in addition, I think we do not do enough in terms of monitoring and enforcing conflicts of interests.

3. Question 3

- a. 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.
 - i. Yes
 - ii. Yes because without that it takes away all the trust and eliminates a sense of honesty. There should be no questions in anyone's mind whether myself or any other politician works for the people or for big money. In addition, I think we do not do enough in terms of monitoring and enforcing conflicts of interests.

4. Question 4

- a. "Super PACs" can take unlimited contributions but are supposed to act