



NEXT GOVERNOR PROJECT

Issue Competency for the Next Governor

August 4, 2009

The following is a compilation of issues where each 2010 candidate for Michigan Governor (of either party) should have a basic competency in order to be taken seriously as a potential leader of the State.

There are many historical, subject and issue areas where a gubernatorial candidate should have a working knowledge that may not, however, be part of the limited number of issues he or she selects to raise in the election or become part of the campaign.

There are also a number of special interest areas – some very narrow but important --where a gubernatorial candidate should be ready to respond to when asked.

The document is generally divided between “issues” and “knowledge.” Issues focuses on policy and political issues that the next Governor will be required to deal with. Knowledge focuses on the scope of facts, history and understanding of the State and State Government that will help the next Governor do his or her job.

The document is not intended to be a definitive list. Rather, it is designed to reflect the wide range of issues that may face Michigan’s next chief executive.

Contents

I. Vision for the “Next Michigan”	1
II. Policy Issues.....	1
1. Education	1
2. Taxes	3
3. Energy & Environment.....	3
4. Economy	4
5. Labor and Employment Issues.....	5
6. Agriculture	6
7. Safety and Security	6
8. Equal Rights, Equal Opportunity.....	8
9. Health Care Issues.....	8
10. Welfare and Social Service Issues	10
11. Early Childhood Education and Care	10
12. Transportation.....	10
13. “Transparency” and Ethics	11
14. Local Government	11
15. Other Issues.....	12
III. Fundamental Knowledge of the State.....	13
1. State Government.....	13
2. State Finances	15
3. Governor’s Powers and Duties	15
4. Taxes	16
5. State Spending	17
6. Education	18
7. Energy & Environment.....	18
8. Welfare, Public Assistance and Social Services	18
9. Health Care	19
10. Other	19
IV. State Structure and History.....	19
V. Traditional and Trick Questions for Candidates and Governors	20



NEXT GOVERNOR PROJECT

Issue Competency for the Next Governor

I. Vision for the “Next Michigan”

- Do you have an articulated vision for Michigan? Does this vision address in a meaningful way the changes that are occurring in the state?
- What is your agenda do you know how to implement the agenda?
- What role do you envision for state government? Will the size, scope, services, and meaning of state government be maintained or changed? How?
- What three things will you repeat over and over during the campaign to win the support of the voters?
- Can you articulate a story of Michigan as a renewed economy and society.
- How will you be a leader and not just Bureaucrat-In-Chief?

II. Policy Issues

The following are policy areas and issues a gubernatorial candidate and the next governor should be ready to discuss. Most are set forth in the form of a question. Ultimately, each candidate must decide whether the subject is a legitimate issue for state government and, if so, what the candidate’s position is.

1. Education

- a. How will you address K–12 School Aid funding?
- b. College tuition increases; is there a more equitable way to fund higher education? Will you pressure state universities on tuition?
- c. Does Michigan have too many state public universities to support?
- d. Where do you stand on public school choice, including expanding or restricting charter schools? Vouchers? President Obama’s policies? Tax credits? Expanded dual enrollment?



Issue Competency for the Next Governor
Page 2 of 21

- e. What are your proposals to address the Detroit Public Schools (DPS) financial crisis? Do you support legislation giving the Detroit mayor power over the DPS?
- f. How many school districts are “too many”? Do you support mandatory school district consolidation?
- g. What should be the role of the intermediate school districts?
- h. Should teacher strikes be permitted?
- i. Should teachers’ benefits be aligned with state employees benefits?
- j. Do you support the MEA proposal for early teacher retirement to save money?
- k. Should the MEA be prohibited from imposing MESSA (MEA-controlled insurance company) on school districts by collective bargaining?
- l. Should the taxpayers continue funding of MSU Extension?
- m. Should the state fund merit awards and other assistance for college attendance?
- n. Should high school graduation requirements be changed? Lower or higher?
- o. Do you support privatization of school support services (food, transportation, etc.)?
- p. Should Michigan allow alternative teacher certification?
- q. Should there be merit pay for teachers?
- r. Do you support the constitutional ban on affirmative action? How will you deal with the decline of minority university enrollments?
- s. Should community colleges be permitted to award 4-year degrees?
- t. Should high school attendance be required until age 18?
- u. Do you support changing high school graduation requirements or creating multiple pathways for success?
- v. What is your position on bi-lingual education?
- w. Can the state afford greater investment in pre-K (early childhood) education?



Issue Competency for the Next Governor

Page 3 of 21

- x. Are there better ways of financing construction of new buildings?
- y. Do you think that General Fund monies should be used to supplement the School Aid Fund's dedicated sources of revenue?
- z. What do you think about the idea of withholding driver's licenses for school drop-outs?

2. Taxes

- a. What changes would you make in business taxes, including the MBT surcharge?
- b. Do you support a graduated income tax?
- c. If there is a shortfall between what the gas tax generates and essential road maintenance and new construction, how would you make up the difference? Will you consider toll roads? Does Michigan allocate enough tax revenue to public transportation?
- d. Do you support increasing beer and cigarette taxes?
- e. Is there a role for a sales tax on services as part of tax reform?
- f. Will you support efforts to recover uncollected sales and use taxes on internet and mail order sales?

3. Energy & Environment

- a. What is your view of the role of state government in curtailing greenhouse gas emissions causing climate change?
- b. Will you permit licensing new coal fired electric generating plants in Michigan?
- c. Do you support more nuclear power in Michigan? Are you concerned with security of spent fuel stored on the shores of the Great Lakes?
- d. Do you favor "decoupling" of power company profits from energy sales to encourage efficiency programs that save ratepayers money and reduce energy use?
- e. Would you encourage and provide state subsidies for the development of wind and solar energy?
- f. What is your view on federal or state "cap and trade" proposals?



Issue Competency for the Next Governor

Page 4 of 21

- g. What would you do to protect Michigan's water?
- h. How would you balance environmental protections and economic growth?
- i. How would you encourage "brown field" development vs. "green field" development?
- j. Urban revitalization; is it an issue for state government?
- k. Do you support state ethanol and bio-fuel subsidies?
- l. Do you support directional drilling under the Great Lakes?
- m. Do you support continued federalization of wetlands permitting?
- n. Are charges of unfairness of DEQ procedures and treatment of citizens legitimate?
- o. How would you access federal "green" funds?
- p. How would you make state government more energy efficient and "green"?
- q. Will you address dioxin contamination in the Midland area?

4. Economy

- a. How do you envision the role of the state government in economic development; the role of state government in stimulating the economy?
- b. Should state licensing and regulatory procedures be more user friendly?
- c. Should the state institute mandatory "buy Michigan" requirements for state contracts?
- d. Would you change the MEDC? (Every governor since Romney has reorganized economic development agencies.)
- e. Should Michigan have a single Economic Development Code instead of the present 50+ economic development statutes?
- f. What is the impact of business and personal taxes on economic growth?
- g. Is there value to the state in targeting specific industries for development? What industries?
- h. Would you create "one stop shopping" for business licenses? How?



Issue Competency for the Next Governor

Page 5 of 21

- i. What is the future of manufacturing in Michigan? Will manufacturing jobs come back? What kinds of jobs?
- j. What are your ideas for workforce development programs and funding?
- k. How would you deal with the automobile industry in 2011 and beyond?
- l. What are your opinions on free trade or protectionism and its impact on Michigan?
- m. Would you promote state efforts to develop exports and foreign investment in Michigan?
- n. What is the role of foreign trade missions? Will you participate in them?
- o. What is your opinion on film production tax credit subsidies? Is the \$100 million authorized now too high or too low?
- p. Can the governor order the state treasurer to use pension funds for economic development purposes? Should this be done?
- q. Should public/private partnerships be pursued? How would you encourage them?

5. Labor and Employment Issues

- a. Are prevailing wage laws a help or a hindrance? What is the impact of prevailing wages on state costs?
- b. Do you support Comparable Worth (also called "Pay Equity")?
- c. Will you respect the constitutional autonomy of the State Civil Service Commission? Should state employees be allowed to strike? Should the Civil Service Commission allow state administration of political action committee (PAC) solicitations for state employee unions?
- d. Which do you prefer: public employee defined benefit vs. defined contribution retirement systems, and why?
- e. Should Act 312 for police and fire arbitration be continued?
- f. What is your view of the impact of immigration on Michigan? Positive or negative? Should state and local police enforce illegal immigration laws?
- g. Do you support making Michigan a right to work state?



Issue Competency for the Next Governor

Page 6 of 21

- h. Should minimum wage laws be changed?
- i. Do you support state ergonomics rules?
- j. Should item pricing laws be repealed?
- k. Should local jurisdictions be allowed to enact “living wage” laws?
- l. Should “comp time” agreements be permitted?
- m. How can worker retraining be accomplished, particularly for displaced workers from auto industry restructuring?
- n. What are the most important employee safety issues requiring state action?

6. Agriculture

- a. How can farm land preservation be encouraged?
- b. What is your stance on confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs)?
- c. Do you have positions on farm land preservation, sustainable agricultural practices, local food movement, farm-to-institution purchasing?
- d. Do you support state legislation on country and state of origin labeling?
- e. Should the state government get involved in farm smells issues, including state pre-emption of local ordinances?
- f. How would you promote agriculture exports and “Buy Local.”?
- g. Should the funding of MSU Extension and Ag Research Station be continued?
- h. What is the state role in fighting animal disease outbreaks; quarantine powers and animal destruction; chronic wasting disease?
- i. What is your policy on the state role in addressing the Emerald Ash borer issue?
- j. Agriculture disaster declarations. What is the trigger for federal aid?
- k. Is there a role for state promotion of agricultural tourism?

7. Safety and Security



Issue Competency for the Next Governor

Page 7 of 21

- a. What are your views on the role and funding allocation between state police and local law enforcement?
- b. Can Michigan afford a Michigan State Police state-wide road patrol or should it be refocused as a specialized agency for, e.g., crime laboratories, SWAT Teams, interagency drug enforcement, homeland security, etc.?
- c. How will you address the Detroit crime lab scandal costs and meeting crime lab needs in Detroit?
- d. What are your views on corrections policy and prison funding? Will you close more prisons?
- e. Would you consider working with the Obama Administration to use the Grayling Maximum Prison for Guantanamo detainees?
- f. Does Michigan need sentencing reform?
- g. Gov. Granholm restructured the Parole Board by Executive Order. Would you continue her changes?
- h. Do you support continuing the Michigan Prisoner Re-entry Project?
- i. Is there over criminalization of some offenses?
- j. Are there gun issues you think warrant state action?
- k. Should "hate crimes" laws be expanded to include to include such perceived characteristics as sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression? Why or why not?
- l. Is Michigan's Sex Offender Registry too broad?
- m. Domestic violence and child custody.
- n. How will you provide for and pay for constitutionally-mandated criminal indigent defense services?
- o. What are the most urgent homeland security and border issues?
- p. Will you seek to continue funding for drug courts?
- q. Will you consider reducing the number of judges to save money?
- r. Should there be binding arbitration for police and fire personnel?



Issue Competency for the Next Governor

Page 8 of 21

- s. What is the role of the governor and key staff in nuclear plant safety, drills and exercises?
- t. What is threshold for Stafford Act disaster declarations and federal aid?
- u. Do you know the role of the governor in relations with FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security?

8. Equal Rights, Equal Opportunity

- a. Barriers to equal opportunity for women and minorities.
- b. Absence of “Sexual orientation, gender identity or expression” in Michigan’s Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act.

9. Health Care Issues

- a. Medicaid eligibility; too broad or too narrow?
- b. Are you prepared to address the state’s role if Congress enacts health care legislation? If Congress does not act?
- c. What are the most pressing children’s health issues, e.g., asthma, obesity, oral health care, mental health, blood lead poisoning?
- d. SCHIP or “MI Child.”
- e. Will you address making drug prices more affordable for Michigan’s residents? Drug pricing, prior authorization, generics.
- f. Will you address the role of preventive v. curative health policies?
- g. Does Michigan need to address the costs and causes of medical malpractice?
- h. What is your position on total smoking bans in restaurants and other public buildings? Should state casinos be exempt from a ban since Indian casinos allow smoking?
- i. Will you support expanded state funding for health care for uninsured people?
- j. Will you try to limit Blue Cross Blue Shield rate increases?
- k. Is the present certificate of need process fair? Does it deny health care for some areas and services?
- l. Is regulation of HMOs an issue for your administration?



Issue Competency for the Next Governor

Page 9 of 21

- m. Do you have plans to address the demand for health care workers in Michigan?
- n. Should Michigan license additional health occupations? Will you consider de-regulating any currently licensed health occupations?
- o. Should non-federally mandated Medicaid benefits be eliminated? Can Michigan afford them?
- p. How will you address reimbursements for hospitals and doctors under Medicaid and Medicare?
- q. Will you continue medical marijuana implementation? Should the authorization of medical marijuana be repealed?
- r. Do you support allowing health savings accounts for public employees?
- s. What, if any, changes in state law are needed with respect to abortion?
- t. Reproductive health care issues: comprehensive, medically accurate sex education vs. abstinence-only sex education; prevention and management of sexually transmitted infections; birth control; infertility management; and abortion services. Is Michigan's law on sex education appropriate and up to date?
- u. Does Michigan need legislation to address stem cell research regulation? Since the people voted for stem cell research, should state funding for research include stem cell research?
- v. Is Michigan prepared for epidemics and pandemics?
- w. What is your view of the role of public health and how should it be delivered?
- x. How should health care be reformed?
- y. Incentives for "healthy life style choices," chronic disease management and value-based insurance design.
- z. Access to health care insurance, the uninsured, hospital uncompensated care, county "third share" programs.
- aa. How would you prioritize any expansion of health care coverage for low- and moderate-income uninsured? E.g., cover lowest income first? Children? Parents? Persons with disabilities? The elderly? Working individuals or families? Unemployed individuals or families?



Issue Competency for the Next Governor
Page 10 of 21

- bb. Obesity and the food system.
- cc. Mental health parity.
- dd. Contraceptive equity.
- ee. Is basic health care a right of citizenship in Michigan?

10. Welfare and Social Service Issues

- a. Child welfare issues.
- b. Child protection issues.
- c. Funding delinquency indigent defense.
- d. Role of private agencies in providing public services.
- e. Impact of children's right litigation settlement.
- f. Underground economy and unpaid child support.
- g. Unemployment compensation funding and federal loans.
- h. Welfare programs and funding.

11. Early Childhood Education and Care

- a. Children and poverty.
- b. Given the importance of brain development in children ages 0-3 yrs., what should be the state invest in early childhood education and family support?
- c. Access to safe, high quality, affordable preschool programs and child care services.

12. Transportation

- a. Funding of road maintenance; state and local.
- b. Do you support a private or a government-funded bridge to Canada in the Detroit area? Both?
- c. Will you encourage state government involvement in the Aerotropolis?
- d. Federal transportation funds.



Issue Competency for the Next Governor

Page 11 of 21

- e. Should gas taxes be increased? Are there alternative revenue sources to gas taxes for roads? Will you consider toll roads?
- f. Will you continue state Amtrak subsidies?
- g. Will you commitment state resources to the High Speed Rail from Chicago to Detroit?
- h. Will you commit state resources for the light rail system in Detroit?
- i. County road commissions.
- j. Aviation funding and taxes.

13. “Transparency” and Ethics

- a. Should FOIA be expanded to increase transparency in state government?
- b. Should publishing the state “check book” and all contracts on the Michigan.gov website be mandatory for all state agencies?
- c. How can the fairness of government contracting procedures be assured?
- d. Will you disclose “hidden” Executive Office employees whose salaries are currently buried in other agencies?
- e. How should political activity; campaign finance, lobbyist regulation, financial disclosure, “sunshine” laws be regulated?
- f. Should personal financial disclosure by public officials be mandated?

14. Local Government

- a. What changes are needed in the role of townships, counties, cities, charter townships, school districts, ISDs, special jurisdictions (library, bus, etc.) and the powers under intergovernmental agreements? Do you support consolidation?
- b. What if Detroit goes insolvent? Will you appoint an emergency financial manager?
- c. Will you increase or decrease revenue sharing with local units of government?
- d. What will you do to address increasing government corruption at the local level?



Issue Competency for the Next Governor

Page 12 of 21

- e. Financial control of bankrupt or failing cities and school districts; how aggressive will you be in taking action?
- f. Will you provide state support to make sure Cobo Hall expansion and assures the Auto Show stays in Michigan?
- g. Should some government services be privatized? Which ones?
- h. Which local services could be consolidated? What will you do about it?

15. Other Issues

- a. Are there consumer protection issues that you believe require legislation?
- b. Will you support out-state subsidies to lower Detroit auto insurance rates?
- c. Race issues
- d. Will you address Detroit pension board scandals?
- e. Will you consider expansion of casino gaming to raise state revenue?
- f. Do you support the State Lottery's rapid expansion of so-called charity poker?
- g. What is your view of the Governor's role in federal policy and the role of Washington DC Office?
- h. What is your view of state relations with Indian tribes?
 - Will you continue government-to-government relations?
 - How will you address renegotiating Indian gaming compacts that expire in 2013?
 - Respecting Treaty rights.
 - Environmental cooperation with tribes.
 - Will you continue Annual Indian "summits?"
 - State role with respect to state-recognized or non-federally recognized tribes.
- i. Will you restore state cultural funding and support?
 - State arts funding.
 - State Library and Museum.
 - Arts and culture promotion and funding.
 - Preserving State archives.
 - Role of the Department of History, Arts and Libraries (HAL).



Issue Competency for the Next Governor

Page 13 of 21

- j. Handling you party's chair and the other party chair.
- k. Public utility rates set by the state public service commission.
- l. Do you support English as the official language in Michigan?
- m. Upper Peninsula issues, including the future of mining and forestry.
- n. What is your policy of availability to the media?
- o. Will you have citizen office hours?
- p. How will you deal with social issues?
 - Domestic partner issues.
 - Embryonic stem cell research.
 - Prayer in schools, Ten Commandments, etc.
- q. Do you support a Constitutional Convention (on 2010 ballot)?

III. Fundamental Knowledge of the State

Candidates for governor and sitting governors are expected to have a broad knowledge of their state and its government structures.

1. State Government

- a. How do you view the role of state government in (a) creating jobs, (b) protecting public safety, (c) helping poor people, (d) transportation, (e) building and retaining talent, (f) educating people, (g) helping people receive necessary medical care, (h) helping people get housing, (i) keeping costs to taxpayers within their means to pay, (j) protecting the environment, (k) protecting the Great Lakes, (l) assuring that public health threats are mitigated, (m) keeping safe our border with Canada, etc.?
- b. What is the thorniest issue that you can think of where the lines of separation of powers and co-equal branches of government have been blurred, if any?
- c. The legislature
 - How many members are there in the legislature? In the House? In the Senate? In 2010, what party controls each chamber?



Issue Competency for the Next Governor

Page 14 of 21

- How would you develop a relationship with the legislature and legislative leaders?
- What is the scope of the legislature's powers?
- Understanding special powers, e.g., transfer of state property, role of resolutions and other constitutional mandates and limits.
- Understanding the Joint Committee On Administrative Rules (JCAR) and limits on legislative interference with executive agency rules.
- Legislative oversight powers over executive branch.
- Inter-branch access to information.

d. The Judiciary

- Who is the chief justice of the Michigan Supreme Court? How many justices are there?
- How does a governor and his or her administration deal with the Supreme Court and role of judges?
- Governor's judicial appointments; role of State Bar in judicial appointments.
- Role of Governor in federal judicial appointments.

e. The Executive Branch

- The Governor's interaction with the Legislature; veto power.
- What is an executive order? What is an executive reorganization order?
- What does the lieutenant governor do?
- How many state departments are there? Name eight of them.
- What is the role of the Civil Service Commission? What influence does the governor have over the Commission?
- What is the role of the State Employer?



Issue Competency for the Next Governor

Page 15 of 21

- What is the relationship between the governor and the elected attorney general, secretary of state and members of the Michigan State Board of Education?
- f. What are term limits and how do they affect state government?
- g. What is the meaning of university autonomy in the Constitution?
- h. What is the role of the “State Administrative Board?” What is the governor’s role?
- i. Who determines the writing of legislative and congressional districts (effective for the 2012 election)? What role does the governor play?

2. State Finances

- a. Balanced budget requirement in the constitution; what does it mean?
- b. What is the state budget process? When will you have to submit your first budget?
- c. What is the Revenue Estimating Conference and why do we have one?
- d. If the governor cuts the budget by issuing an executive order, who needs to approve it?
- e. What is the CAFR?
- f. How solvent is the Michigan Education Trust?
- g. What is the financial condition of the state pension funds? What is the state’s unfunded pension and health care liability for state employees? What is the liability for public school personnel?
- h. What is the state’s credit rating? How does Michigan rank with other states?

3. Governor’s Powers and Duties

- a. Executive orders, declarations and executive directives.
- b. Cabinet organization; Governor’s reorganization powers.
- c. Appointments and removal. Advice and consent of the Senate.
- d. Governor’s constitutional, statutory and common law powers.



Issue Competency for the Next Governor

Page 16 of 21

- e. Governor's powers under federal law.
- f. Governor's emergency powers related to natural disaster, civil unrest, homeland security, terrorist threats.
- g. Governor's powers with respect to Indian tribes. What happens when the Indian gaming compacts expire in 2013?
- h. Gov. Granholm personally presided over a hearing on Mayor Kilpatrick's fitness to remain mayor. How did the governor get embroiled in it? Would you have handled it similarly or differently?
- i. To whom would you turn for commutation, clemency, and parole requests?
- j. Can the governor settle a law suit without consent of the legislature? Can the attorney general sue or settle a case without the consent of the governor?
- k. What is the Governor's approval power over interlocal agreements and local charters?
- l. What are the Governor's removal powers over state and local officials? Are the governor's decision subject to judicial review?

4. Taxes

- a. How much tax revenue does the state raise from all taxes in a year? What percent are sales taxes? What percent are income taxes? What percent are business taxes?
- b. What is Proposal A and what does it do?
- c. What is the Headlee Amendment and what does it do?
- d. What is Michigan's personal income tax rate? What is Michigan's sales tax rate?
- e. How does our property tax system work?
- f. Will you take a "no new taxes" pledge?
- g. What is a "tax expenditure"? Give some examples.
- h. What industry-specific targeted tax credits does Michigan have?



Issue Competency for the Next Governor

Page 17 of 21

- i. Understand the structure of business taxes, including the MBT surcharge.
- j. Changes in property tax: how can assessed values go down and taxes go up?
- k. Remote sales tax collection (sales tax on on-line sales).
- l. Gas taxes for roads: what is the current state gas tax? How much revenue does it raise?
- m. Impact of cigarette taxes and cigarette smuggling.

5. State Spending

- a. How will you respond to Gov. Granholm's last budget (every governor from Milliken on has left a substantial deficit not acknowledged until after the election)?
- b. Budget for 2011. Would you describe the writing of the 2010–2011 state budget as next to impossible, possible with great pain, or about as difficult as normal? What do you forecast for creating your first budget—the 2011–2012 fiscal year? How hard will it be?
- c. Do you understand the revenue estimates for 2011?
- d. What does “structural deficit” mean? How would that affect your decisions in your first term?
- e. What is the total state budget? How much of state funding is federal funds? How much is state tax revenue?
- f. How has state spending changed during Gov. Granholm's tenure?
- g. What percentage of state spending goes to each of the top four sources of spending? What percentage of the total are these four areas?
- h. What did Michigan get from the Obama stimulus funds and what were they used for? Will the funds run out in your term and what will you do about it? Roughly, what is Michigan residents' share of the debt burden to support the stimulus?
- i. How has state spending, on a per capita basis, changed over time? How has that compared to other states? Is it fair or not to compare Michigan to other states based solely on state spending or state and local spending combined?



Issue Competency for the Next Governor

Page 18 of 21

- j. What is the state's bonded indebtedness? How does it compare per capita with other states? How much interest does the state pay each year?
- k. What are you going to do about spending on state roads?
- l. What should be done with tobacco settlement funds?

6. Education

- a. How many school districts are there in Michigan?
- b. What is the role of the elected State Board of Education and State Superintendent of Public Instruction in relation to the governor?
- c. What is the level of state funding for higher education (state universities and community colleges)? Is it changing as a percentage of higher education costs?
- d. Methods for removal of elected school, community college, and university board members for malfeasance.
- e. How are local school buildings funded? What is the state's role?

7. Energy & Environment

- a. How many nuclear plants does Michigan have? Is spent fuel stored on the shores of the Great Lake safe? Who is responsible for security?
- b. Public Service Commission ("PSC") and utility rates.
- c. Present structure of Michigan's environmental and natural resources regulation agencies (DNR and DEQ)
- d. What is the Great Lakes Compact?

8. Welfare, Public Assistance and Social Services

- a) Basics of caseload levels for major public assistance programs and recent caseload trends.
- b) Basics of federal funding formulas (block grants vs. federal matching formulas, percentage of state vs. federal dollars, MOE and "use it or lose it" requirements, etc.) for benefits and administrative costs provided by public assistance programs (SNAP, TANF, CHIP, Medicaid, nutrition programs).



Issue Competency for the Next Governor

Page 19 of 21

- c) Welfare Reform initiatives: 1995-1996; 2001, and 2006-07.
- d) Removing barriers to employment and self-sufficiency.
- e) How many hours does a parent have to work to be eligible for cash assistance unless otherwise found exempt?
- f) “Children’s Rights” child welfare litigation and recent consent decree relating to Michigan’s failure to meeting federal standards concerning permanency for state wards.

9. Health Care

- a. Medicaid funding: how much flexibility does the state have in setting eligibility and services to be covered? What percentage of Medicaid funds go for the long-term care of indigent, older people?
- b. What is SCHIP?

10. Other

- a. State relations with Indian tribes:
 - Understanding state and tribal sovereignty.
 - Understanding the legislature’s role concerning Indian tribes.
 - Gaming (Indian compacts expire in 2013).
 - Taxation.
 - Law enforcement agreements.
 - State role in trust land acquisition.
 - Treaty rights.
 - Environmental cooperation.

IV. State Structure and History

- a. When was Michigan admitted to the Union?
- b. What is the Northwest Ordinance?
- c. When was the Michigan Constitution adopted? Have you read it?
- d. How many counties are there in the state? How many have you been to?
- e. How many Indian tribes are there in Michigan? Does state government control the tribes? Do Indians pay taxes?



Issue Competency for the Next Governor

Page 20 of 21

- f. What is the population of Michigan? How has it changed since the 2000 Census? What is the per capita income? Per capita income compared to the national average since 1950? Changing demographics (are we getting older, smaller and poorer?)
- g. What are the three most important services state government (as opposed to the federal or local governments) provides to people? Why?
- h. Michigan geography
 - How many of the Great Lakes border Michigan? Name them.
 - How much of the world's fresh surface water is in the Great Lakes? How much of Michigan is within the Great Lakes basin?
 - Why does the State of Michigan own so much forest land?
 - How many state parks are there in Michigan? Name two.
 - How many national parks are located in Michigan? Name one.
 - How long is Michigan's coastline? How does its coastline compare to other states?
- i. What minerals are mined or could be mined in Michigan?
- j. What is unique about Michigan relating to agriculture?
- k. What is the history of Michigan's constitutional ban on capital punishment?

V. Traditional and Trick Questions for Candidates and Governors

- a. Have you smoked marijuana? Done other illegal substances?
- b. Have you ever been found guilty of a misdemeanor?
- c. Do you have a Gov. Spitzer/Sanford issue?
- d. Do you now or have you ever owned a car or truck made by a non-domestic automaker?
- e. Have you voted in all past elections? Including school and community college elections? If not, why not?
- f. Have you filed all your tax returns? Have you paid any tax penalties or been late in paying? Will you give the media access to your tax returns?
- g. What is your position on any pending ballot proposal (e.g., Con-Con)?



Issue Competency for the Next Governor

Page 21 of 21

PARTICIPANTS

This document is a compilation of suggestions from a number of individuals with experience in State government and public policy. The list is not intended to be complete, but is intended as a discussion document to focus on the breadth of issues facing Michigan's Next Governor. Among the participants are the following individuals who have authorized the use of their names: James Haveman, Richard Cole, Jean Doss, Gary Gordon, Ed Dore, Kelly Rossman-McKinney, Richard McLellan, Lance Boldrey, Doug Roberts, Joe Baumann, Kathy Wilbur and others. While the document was prepared for presentation to gubernatorial candidates, it is a public document intended to be widely discussed. A Michigan's Next Governor blog is being set up to encourage others to participate.

NEXT GOVERNOR PROJECT

This document—Issue Competency for the Next Governor—is the first effort of a volunteer, bipartisan effort to help Michigan and its next governor to prepare for the challenges facing the state and state government on January 1, 2011. It is based on the belief that whoever wins the office of governor and whatever his or her governing philosophy is, the job of governing is difficult and that providing the next governor with the best governing tools and access to information will benefit the people of Michigan. The project is also based on the belief that the next governor cannot solve Michigan's challenges alone. Citizens, especially those who have experience and knowledge of state government processes, can play a role in helping to make Michigan's Next Governor a success.